IMMUNITY to the LAKE OF FIRE

A No-Nonsense Guide

By

Calvin Lamont Mitchell

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# Dedication

I dedicate this book to Tahlia Elayne Mitchell, my youngest daughter.

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# Introduction

You were born with a problem that will eventually destroy you—spirit, soul and body. It will destroy you, everyone you’ve ever known and everything you’ve ever loved and cherished.

This book is for everyone who can read, regardless of their national, ethnic, economic or religious background (or the lack of a religion). This book is for atheists, scientists, agnostics, spiritists, metaphysicists and even the most devout and orthodox.

If we are honest with ourselves, we understand that all religions that currently exist (including the “un-religions”) cannot logically be true. They may all be “right” in terms of advocating “right” living, but THEY CANNOT ALL BE TRUE in the historical/reality sense of the word “TRUE” (the world does not sit on the shell of a turtle, nor was the Earth made from the body of a god). SOMEONE made the Cosmos; either all religions are WRONG about That Someone or ONE of the religions are right…this book takes the latter position. Having identified that One True Faith (for faith to be valid, it must be placed in that which is true), we can safely remove the “religion” moniker and call it a science…the Science of GOD!

We also understand that, in The End (which is inevitable for everything that has a beginning has an end), TRUTH must undoubtedly endure and all lies and falsehood shall fade into oblivion and cease to exist.

Unfortunately, your brief breath of Earthly existence won’t last long enough to see that Day in time to identify the truth, and so you must make CRITICAL, ETERNAL decisions NOW that will factor into your Eternal Destiny.

This book is written to help you make those decisions by ruthlessly cutting through all the “hype” and providing you the “mere Christianity” (as C.S. Lewis put it) necessary for you to receive the Immunity to the Lake of Fire necessary for True Immortality (existing in and being completely saturated by [baptized in] The Glory of GOD for Eternity).

If everyone in Christendom accepted the Holy Bible as the Final Authority for all matters of faith and practice, our task of obtaining immunity to the Lake of Fire would be much simpler. Regrettably, not everyone in Christendom is actually a Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself stated that there are cardinals, bishops, pastors, overseers, evangelists, teachers and even prophets and laity in Christendom that were not planted by GOD, but by the Devil (Matthew 13:24-30). These operatives, claiming to be advocates of The Gospel, are actually tasked with ensuring that you are thrown into the Lake of Fire with themselves. Many of these operatives, programmed to oppose the Truth, don’t actually realize what they are doing, but truly believe that they are accepted by GOD on the basis of their obedience and works of service.

And so the true believer in Christ, seeking to be saved from the Lake of Fire, is opposed by a formidable array of opponents: a world that hates GOD, a nearly innumerable bevy of false religions claiming veracity, an army of spies infiltrating the Church on behalf of a tireless Enemy and, most dangerous of all, a fallen nature within the heart that LOVES SIN.

But don’t despair! Against all these the believer in Christ has an effective secret Weapon that has NEVER lost an applicant who has called on the Name of Christ from the heart:

GRACE (Ephesians 2:8,9)!

It may be that in your mind and experience the term “Grace” is associated with something delicate, fragile and quickly withdrawn when the going gets tough and failure is a relentless companion that refuses to leave you alone.

I am happy to tell you such a view is as far from the truth as the east is from the west.

Grace is older than the Earth, more ancient than the stars and predates the Big Bang which flung the galaxies into existence. Grace reigned in Unapproachable Glory before any created being existed. Grace is That Undefinable and Unbreakable Intimacy that has existed from all Eternity between GOD the Father, GOD the Son and GOD the Holy Spirit.

And it is this Mighty, Precious Grace which is extended to every believer in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (1st John 5:11-13).

This book is written to make clear to you the Greatest Problem you have or will ever face, the Solution GOD the Father has graciously provided in the Person of His Only-Begotten Son The Lord Jesus Christ as well as the lies, misunderstandings and obstacles with which the Devil has sought to blind the eyes of those that refuse to believe The Gospel.

Part One will explain to you the Greatest Problem in your existence.

Part Two will describe what you need to do for GOD to solve your Problem; for the truth is that GOD has already solved your problem…you just need to receive by faith what He already did.

Part Three gives the big picture from GOD’s point of view in regards to the Process of Salvation and the new life offered to you as a believer in Jesus Christ.

To the carnal mind the Holy Bible is a distasteful experience; filled with judgment, wrath and conviction…assailing the mind with guilt, shame and fear. Overwhelmed by a mirror that reveals the facts regarding its fallen state, like the ostrich the carnal mind sticks its head in the sands of life’s distractions while the juggernaut of Death inches ever closer to fling their consciousness into an Eternity they are in no wise prepared for.

It is the purpose of this book (and many books like it) to encourage systematic Bible reading; to demonstrate that The Sacred Library isn’t just about doom and gloom but also about a Blessed and Glorious Hope; and to assist the true believer (through the Guidance of the Holy Spirit of GOD) with the task of rightly dividing the Word of Truth (2nd Timothy 2:15).

It is my humble prayer that, while reading this book, your eyes will be granted clarity, your understanding expanded, the oppressive burden of trying to be God lifted from your shoulders and your lungs filled with the refreshing air of Heaven…

…even while you walk the Earth!

(NOTE: when including Scripture quotations in the manuscript I do tend to take punctuation and capitalization into my own hands for emphasis…you have been warned.)

# PART ONE:

## THE PROBLEM

“And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the Beast and the False Prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

“And I saw a Great White Throne, and Him that sat on It, from Whose Face the Earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before GOD; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is The Book of LIFE: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and Death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

“And Death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is The Second Death.

“And whosoever was not found written in The Book of LIFE was cast into The Lake of Fire.” – The Apostle John, Revelation 20:10-15

# Chapter 1:

## CRISIS!

Eternal Judgment

It’s much more enjoyable to discuss solutions than complain about problems. In this case, however, it is more prudent to identify the Problem because: (1) you will gain a tremendous appreciation for the Solution and (2) the Problem is far, far worse than you can possibly imagine on your own.

I want to commend you, precious Reader, for getting this far. If you persevere, the rewards and benefits will be great, but first I need to wake you up, because even in the institutionalized church community people are quite asleep and unaware of what is “barreling down” upon them. For, to be entirely honest, physical death is not nearly the terror as that which is coming afterward for far too many people.

Old Testament Judgment

The Holy Bible is divided into two volumes: The Old and New Testaments. And if the Bible is to be accepted as a valid, verifiable and authentic historical document (and there is no logical reason why it should not be considered as such) then you should ponder that a significant portion of its content is devoted to the topic of Eternal Judgment and (often indirectly) the Lake of Fire.

“Your Hand will find out ALL Your enemies;  
Your Right Hand will find out those who hate You.  
You will make them as a blazing oven when You appear.

“The Lord will swallow them up in His Wrath,  
and fire will consume them.

“You will destroy their descendants from the Earth,  
and their offspring from among the children of man.”  
King David, Psalm 21:8-10

“’For behold, the Day is coming, burning like an oven, when ALL the arrogant and ALL evildoers will be stubble. The Day that is coming shall set them ablaze,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.’” – The Prophet Malachi 4:1

New Testament Judgment

The New Testament, bedrock of the Message of Salvation, Mercy and Grace, is no less clear on the inevitable doom and annihilation of all sin and wickedness. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself has declared in no uncertain terms the fate of those that refuse to repent of their sins or submit to His Authority and Lordship.

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the Hell of Fire.

“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into Hell [Gehenna: the Lake of Fire].

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him Who can destroy both soul and body in Hell.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 5:22,29; 10:28

The quote at the beginning of Part One of this book is from the last book of the New Testament and was written by the Apostle John, who is better known for his profound statements on the Love of GOD. Other New Testament writers chime in on the same theme of Eternal Judgment and Wrath.

“…since indeed GOD considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know GOD and on those who do not obey The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

“They will suffer the punishment of Eternal Destruction, away from The Presence of the Lord and from The Glory of His Might, when He comes on That Day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. – The Apostle Paul, 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-10

“But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the Earth and its works will be burned up.

“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the Day of GOD, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!” – The Apostle Peter, 2nd Peter 3:10-12

The Unavoidable

It is clear from these passages (and many others that were not quoted here) that GOD’s Intent is clear and immovable:

1. GOD will cause to cease in the Cosmos all sin, wickedness, rebellion and even Death itself--PERMANENTLY.

2. GOD does not only intend to destroy, but also to PUNISH all souls whose names are omitted from The Book of Life…NO EXCEPTIONS.

Priorities

You may not agree with GOD’s Will; you may even consider GOD’s Perspective to be unfair or unmerciful or unjust…

…IT DOESN’T MATTER. Judgment, Wrath and Punishment are already on their way and you need to decide NOW what you’re going to do about it…else that decision WILL BE MADE FOR YOU.

There is NOTHING ELSE in your life that is more important than this. It would be better for you to be alone, naked, homeless, jobless and starving at Death’s door WITH YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE than for you to own the entire world and yet be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

After Death, WRATH

Death itself is a cruel and bitter pill that (unless Christ returns first) we all must swallow. Yet there are few forms of death/execution more heinous than death by fire. It is as though the chemical reaction between the flames and every one of the thirty trillion cells in your body can be felt in acute and unrelieved agony…

…the Lake of Fire is FAR WORSE. Not only your body, but your spirit and soul will be consumed in a flame that is not only heated by thermal forces, but by the Anger of GOD.

# Chapter 2:

## The Deeper Problem

Unfair

In the previous chapter I did my best to describe our collective Problem from a human perspective; that is, I stated the fact that the way we live our lives now has clear, REAL and unavoidable consequences for Eternity.

From our view of things, it may appear that GOD is overreacting…that nothing any of us has done would warrant such a terrifying, unmerciful solution as the Lake of Fire.

Then again, the victims of Genghis Khan, Adolf Hitler, Mao Zedong and Po Pot may disagree with you.

The truth is, however, that the Lake of Fire is NOT an overreaction and GOD is COMPLETELY just and fair in His Decisions; and I’m now going to attempt to explain to you why this is so.

Evil

The key to understanding GOD’s response to sin is to grasp the true nature of evil and the Law of Sin and Death [spiritual, psychological and physical death] (Romans 7).

Yes…EVIL. There’s a rumor going around the philosophical community that morality doesn’t really exist. If the universe is purely physical and can be simply described as layers of quantum fields of energy, morality could be defined in relativistic terms (each person’s morality is valid to themselves). There’s just one glaring problem with this view: GOD. GOD does exist, which means Spirituality (and thus morality) predates the physical universe and is therefore MORE REAL than matter. Furthermore, because GOD is, morality and righteousness have a clear and absolute STANDARD to which we are all expected to subscribe and by which we all will be measured…and before which we all have miserably FAILED (Romans 3:23).

The Feasibility of Holiness

In the unfallen realms and of course Heaven itself that Standard has been demonstrated for unknown ages to be entirely feasible, sustainable and necessary for the welfare, growth and fulfillment of all sentient beings. More than this, that Standard has proven to be EFFORTLESS, requiring no inconvenience on the part of those that are citizens of GOD’s Kingdom because GOD Himself provides the Grace, Strength and Will to obey that Standard.

What I’m saying is that THERE IS NO REASONABLE EXCUSE FOR ANY UNFALLEN BEING TO DECIDE TO SIN…

…but one being did.

It was an act of madness and insanity.

Liar!

It should at this point be noted that Satan is not called in the Holy Bible the Father of sin (though he is the very first sinner) nor the Father of evil; rather, in the Gospel of John, Chapter Eight and Verse Forty-Four the Son of GOD calls him the Father of Lies. This is where evil started and it is how sin is sustained and perpetuated: with lies.

The first lie Lucifer ever told he told to himself. One can only imagine the strength and willpower that was required for the Son of the Morning to stand in the Presence of Absolute TRUTH and convince himself that he was as worthy of worship as The Eternal GODHEAD.

Child of Lies

It was no less a feat for Adam, who was formed into the very Image and Likeness of Absolute TRUTH and clothed with the Glory of That TRUTH, to disregard a direct Divine Order and bite down upon the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

It is nearly impossible for you and I, from where we stand, to comprehend the heinousness of such a crime; we ourselves were born dead [to GOD and His Glory]…we were born zombies. We appear to ourselves to be alive yet we are not alive, for what life can there be apart from the Eternal Fountain of LIFE? We were each born alone with our thoughts and outside of the Presence of Divine LOVE. We were born with the curse of privacy; trapped in prisons of flesh and having to learn the hard way how to communicate our feelings, desires, hopes, fears, needs and dreams.

Sin separates us from TRUTH and by its very nature teaches us to lie to ourselves and to others. We come to call darkness light, evil good, and bondage freedom. Every day we feast at the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, having built an entire society constructed on Death rather than LIFE.

Blindness

And apart from the Holy Scriptures and the restraints placed upon us by the Holy Spirit of GOD, we have no clue of our detestable state nor of our inevitable extinction. Voices sent to us from Heaven try to warn us that our way of life is not sustainable; that what we feed our bodies, how we treat our environment and the way we govern ourselves makes our survival as a species increasingly difficult as time progresses.

What we ultimately refuse to acknowledge, however, is the simple truth that WE ARE SINNERS and sinners are innately SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND SUICIDAL by nature. With each passing decade the fellowship and collaboration between humans and demons grows ever more intimate, mankind’s capacity for evil grows ever more wicked and what was left of the Image of Divinity in us grows ever more delible.

Justice

It is impossible for GOD to allow evil to continue forever; it is an affront to His Pure, Loving Heart and Divinely Majestic and Noble Character. While evil is no threat to the GODHEAD, the toll Lucifer’s rebellion has taken on angels, men and the creation has been tragic—so tragic that The GODHEAD had to change ITSELF if there was to be any hope of a human escaping the Lake of Fire.

For the Lake of Fire was not created for homo sapiens, but for the Devil and his angels. But Adam’s decision to spit in his Master’s Face doomed his entire species. There was no logical reason to save Adam nor Eve nor any of their offspring, for once a soul has fallen THERE IS NO DESIRE NOR WILL IN THAT SOUL TO RETURN TO GOD.

JUNCTION ONE: While any sinner would DO EVERTHING POSSIBLE to avoid the Lake of Fire, no sinner has ANY DESIRE IN THEIR HEART WHATSOEVER to return to GOD (repentance).

Total Depravity

You have reached a very critical junction in this book; I need to be clear and you need to understand: you may not WANT to be thrown into the Lake of Fire, but YOU DON’T WANT TO GO BACK TO GOD, EITHER. Your capacity to love GOD is DEAD.

Religion can get to you think, talk and behave as one who loves GOD, but religion CANNOT create a true love for The One True GOD in your fallen, wicked heart.

This may be the first time you’ve ever heard this, but I’m not making it up; this fact is all over the pages of Holy Scripture.

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let Me alone, that My Wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.’” – Exodus 32:9-10

“And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: ‘You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. But to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.’” - Deuteronomy 29:2-4

“But Joshua said to the people, ‘You are not able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy GOD. He is a jealous GOD; He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.’” – Joshua 24:19, 20

“And if you say in your heart,  
‘Why have these things come upon me?’

It is for the greatness of your iniquity  
that your skirts are lifted up  
and you suffer violence.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin  
or the leopard his spots?  
Then also you can do good  
who are accustomed to do evil.

“I will scatter you like chaff  
driven by the wind from the desert.

“’This is your lot,  
the portion I have measured out to you,’  
 declares the Lord,  
‘because you have forgotten Me  
and trusted in lies.’” -The Prophet Jeremiah 13:22-25

“What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that ALL, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

‘None is righteous, no, not one;  
no one understands;  
no one seeks for GOD.

‘ALL have turned aside; together they have  
become worthless;  
no one does good,  
not even one.” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 3:9-12

Ineffectual Religion

You’re either in shock that your whole life has been a lie (“I am a good person [or just as good as everybody else]”) or in disbelief and have already labeled me a nutcase or worse: a heretic. Perhaps you were raised in church and were certain that your religion had taken care of your GOD problem a long time ago. That’s the whole point of religion, isn’t it…to reconcile mankind to GOD?

Religion has NEVER reconciled people to GOD; and I’m going to take the entire next chapter to address the topic of religion.

# Chapter 3:

## Religion’s Folly

Religion’s Popularity

Google it if you don’t believe me; 85-95% of the 7.7 billion people living in the world associate themselves with a religious, esoteric, spiritual or metaphysical system of some kind. This would lead one to believe that humanity is not only close to GOD, but has (with GOD’s assistance) resolved the fundamental difficulties with which society has been plagued from the beginning: mental health, poverty, disease, relationships (between people and nations) and the environment.

Religion’s Failure

Let see how well the world is doing.

970 million people have a mental or substance use disorder. Close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year, which is one person every forty seconds.

Nearly 2 billion people (36%) live in extreme poverty (income of $1.00/day or less).

The global life expectancy is 72 years; which seems like a lot until you read in the Bible that people use to live for over 900 years. 15,000 children under age five die EVERY DAY (it’s just a number until one of those children are yours). 435,000 die of malaria every year (that’s 1,191 deaths per day). 24,657 die of cancer every day.

In the last forty years divorce rates around the world have nearly doubled. Murder rates (in 2009) were more than 8 per 100,000 people; which doesn’t sound that bad…until you multiply 100,000 into 7,000,000,000 (7 billion), which comes out to over 8,000 murders every year—which means you, like me, probably know someone who has been murdered.

Religion: Part of the Problem

Rather than being a deterrent to depression, greed, poor eating habits, divorce or murder, it seems that religion has only served to provide an excuse for our wicked behavior (“I’m only human” or “I’m just a sinner saved by Grace”).

The Holy Bible has a lot to say to and about those who either use religion as a cloak for personal gain and prestige or try to hide behind religion to shield their evil deeds from the Judgment of GOD.

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ declares the Lord.” – The Prophet Jeremiah 23:1

“Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!’” The Prophet Ezekiel 13:3

“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 23:2,3

“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.” – Jesus Christ, Luke 6:26

Religion: The Enemy of GOD

Over and over again the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt that He was the Only-Begotten Son of the One, True and Living GOD and yet His most vehement enemies were neither the Romans and Herodians nor the common people and the outcasts. It is tragic that the people who hated Christ to the point of conspiring to put His Innocent, Pure Soul to death were the very ones who professed to know GOD and used their religion as a cloak for making themselves a RIDICULOUS amount of money!

Which brings me to my next point.

Products of Religion

Every system (whether it be a manufacturing company, a service company or a non-profit organization like the Red Cross or the Foursquare Christian denomination) has a purpose. From this purpose the system produces a product meant to satisfy a need or solve a problem.

Religion promises peace (in some cases with GOD) between neighbors and inspiration to choose to live according to the better part of our natures. In the most extreme cases religion promises immortality and immunity to the Lake of Fire. The evidence of history, however, doesn’t bear this out (I promised you I’d cut through the hype).

In truth Religion produces only three products: pride (what the Apostle Paul called “boasting”), failure and doubt.

Pride

Jacob (later known as Israel) was one of two grandsons (the other grandson being Esau, Jacob’s twin) of Abraham the Hebrew through his son Isaac. Jacob had twelve sons, the fourth being Judah. After the Exodus the Israelites endured as a people for well over two thousand years (as a nation the United States is barely 230 years old if you start from the adoption of the Constitution).

By the time the Messiah (Heb. Meshiach, Grk. Christos) came the only tribe that remained of the twelve that still had a homeland was Judah. Nowadays, when we refer to “the Jews” the phrase is often inclusive of all twelve tribes.

For this reason, many “orthodox” Jews consider themselves the Last Bastion of the True Faith originally delivered by GOD to Abraham and therefore the “royal blood” of all nations and faiths. It is necessary, therefore, for anyone choosing to adopt Judaism as their religion to ACTUALLY BECOME A JEW.

In the Jews (because they are the Chosen Nation) religious pride and ethnic pride are one and the same…a powerful national attitude that has continued literally for centuries—even though the Biblical record states that, as a nation, they failed to keep the Covenant (known as The Ten Commandments or the Old Covenant/Old Testament) they had with GOD.

If you point this out to a Jew, they will admit their failure, stating that their subsequent repentance and current obedience are all that matters now (sound familiar?).

Through the agency of three men (John the Baptist, Jesus of Nazareth and Saul of Tarsus) GOD began a relentless assault on the religious and ethnic pride of the Jews from which they have never quite recovered.

To this day there is a great deal of anti-Semitism in Christendom against the Jews; a sin that is entirely unjustified because religious Christians MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THE JEWS DID.

You see…for a sinner obedience to GOD is akin to trying to skate uphill: it requires a great deal of focus, self-denial and willpower. Have you ever wondered WHY obedience is so difficult? Obedience to GOD is not difficult at all for unfallen beings, but is a miserable existence for us.

WHY???

The answer is frighteningly simple: WE ARE DEAD!!!

We have NEVER lived in bodies that were clothed with the Glory of GOD as our father Adam was. Nowadays we clothe ourselves with everything else—and even nothing at all; trying to regain that lost Moment in our distant past when GOD WAS OUR CLOTHING.

Apart from The Gospel the closest we can get to that Moment is OBEDIENCE…but it’s an obedience performed entirely in the flesh, and ENTIRELY REJECTED BY GOD BECAUSE THERE IS NO GLORY IN IT (Matthew 7:21-23).

That doesn’t stop us, though, because one possible benefit of obedience is: though it is rejected by GOD, IT IS OFTEN ACCEPTED BY MEN. It makes us look “good” to others, improves our reputation and garners a certain type of recognition and respect.

Obedience also enables us to LOOK DOWN on those who are not as strong as we are…those that wrestle with bad habits and addictions. There was a time when these “weak” people were the bedrock of the Christian Church…now everyone participating in the ministry of the church has to pass a background check…

…are you kidding me?!?

You’ve reached another critical junction in this book.

JUNCTION TWO: The obedience of the sinner CANNOT BE ACCEPTED by GOD because since the sinner is spiritually dead THEIR OBEDIENCE IS DEAD AS WELL.

Failure

I pray it is now easier for you to understand WHY religion—though it serves us to a certain degree—doesn’t work with GOD. Israel as a nation WAS DOOMED TO FAIL because, like the rest of us, Israel was and is A NATION OF SINNERS.

Unlike us, however, Israel was constantly reminded of their failure through the sacrificial system that GOD prescribed for them.

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.” – GOD, Leviticus 17:11

“Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” – Hebrews 9:22

To sacrifice an animal means to shed its blood; to shed its blood results in the animal’s death. Death is a reminder that sin has been committed, for where there is sin there will ALWAYS be death.

“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine: the soul who sins shall die.

“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” – GOD, Ezekiel 18:4,20

(NOTE: I encourage you to read the entire 18th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel; for therein GOD addresses with clarity the topic of repentance.)

Death is a reminder of sin and sin is our failure to meet GOD’s Standard, which is His Own Character.

How could any created being meet the Standard of GOD’s Character?

Well, that’s the thing, you see: GOD’s Character is the one thing GOD expects to see when He looks at the heart of any moral being (which includes angels and men) because His Grace (ah, there’s that Word again!) plants His Character into every unfallen being He creates.

Yeah, I know: we are not unfallen…but GOD doesn’t care. GOD still expects sinners to “behave themselves” and obey His Commandments because that was His Original Design for them.

“That’s not fair,” you say, “It’s not my fault I was born a sinner!”

Yes, it IS your fault.

According to the Bible, Adam didn’t have kids until AFTER he sinned against GOD (and, as I said earlier, there was no excuse for Adam to disobey GOD since he had GOD’s Character). This means you and I WERE STILL INSIDE OF ADAM at the moment he disobeyed; therefore, we participated with our ancestor Adam in his act of disobedience.

Complain, protest and dispute all you want…that’s the way GOD sees it.

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the Law [the first five Books of the Bible in general and The Ten Commandments in particular] was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the One [Christ] Who was to come.” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 5:12-14

Doubt

I have a question for those of you that still believe obedience (or a combination of Grace and obedience) is the key to immunity to the Lake of Fire:

How much obedience is enough?

How much self-denial, self-punishment, asceticism and willpower is enough to prove to GOD (and yourself) that you mean business?

At the beginning of Part One of this book I quoted Revelation Chapter Twenty, Verses One through Fifteen, which say that, at your final judgment books will be opened and you’ll be judged out of those things written in the books.

Will your good deeds outweigh your evil deeds (like pagan religions believe)? Will GOD ignore the evil deeds you repented if they all happened before all the good deeds you performed at the end of your life, like Ezekiel Chapter Eighteen seems to imply?

How SURE are you that at the end of your Divine Evaluation you will have passed the test with flying colors?

I am sorry, but I am trying to scare you. Religion will NOT provide you with the assurance you desperately need not only to avoid the Lake of Fire, but to live a truly victorious Christian life!

Please look closer at the Revelation passage. All of the “books” that are opened are not really the issue. There is only ONE BOOK that you need concern yourself with, and that is The Book of LIFE (referred to as “the Lamb’s Book of LIFE” in Revelation 21:27). IF YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WHATSOEVER; the Lake of Fire can do you no harm.

And that makes three junctions:

JUNCTION THREE: As long as your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WHATSOEVER; the Lake of Fire can do you no harm.

But what if your name is blotted out of the Book of LIFE?

“…and all who dwell on Earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the Book of LIFE of the Lamb Who was slain.” – The Apostle John, Revelation 13:8

Imagine yourself before Genesis Chapter One, Verse One. GOD has yet to lay the foundation of the Earth or create Adam. At this moment, GOD writes your name in His Book of LIFE…

…Though we do not understand how, we know by faith that GOD knows everything, including who will be saved, and who will not be saved—which begs the question: why would GOD write your name in His Book of LIFE and then blot it out later??? Is His Vision so short-sighted as to be surprised by something you do when all the seconds of your existence are as a single moment to Him? It was not your decision that caused Him to write your name, but His!

My junction stands.

And in Part Two of this book I will tell you plainly how to be SURE your name is in The Book of Life…but first I need to share with you a few more words about doubt.

The Doctrine of Doubt

According to 2016 statistics, there are 1.3 billion Roman Catholics in the world. To over one seventh of the world’s population Roman Catholicism IS Christianity (regardless of the fact that Roman Catholicism has strayed so far from the Biblical model as to be better characterized as a pagan religion).

Did you know that, according to the Council of Trent (1545-1563) which is still considered to this day established doctrine of the Roman Catholic faith, IT IS FORBIDDEN TO BE ASSURED OF YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION???

“No one, moreover, so long as he is in this mortal life, ought so far to presume as regards the secret mystery of divine predestination, as to determine for certain that he is assuredly in the number of the predestinate; as if it were true, that he that is justified, either cannot sin any more, or, if he do sin, that he ought to promise himself an assured repentance; for except by special revelation, it cannot be known whom God hath chosen unto Himself. (Decree on Justification, Chapter 12)

“If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification, and that it is not in any way necessary, that he be prepared and disposed by the movement of his own will; let him be anathema” (Canon 9).

“If any one saith, that man is truly absolved from his sins and justified, because he assuredly believed himself absolved and justified; or, that no one is truly justified but he who believes himself justified; and that, by this faith alone, absolution and justification are effected; let him be anathema” (Canon 14). – Council of Trent, Session Six, 13-Jan-1547, Decree and Canons on Justification

As I was reading through the Council of Trent’s decree and canons on justification I was impressed at how reasonable and logical the arguments were…according to human wisdom.

But what does the Holy Bible say about predestination and justification by faith?

“Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 3:20,28

“Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in Him Who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 4:4,5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His Will, to the praise of His Glorious Grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” – The Apostle Paul, Ephesians 1:3-6

It becomes obvious that the Apostle Paul, an enemy of The Gospel who didn’t really decide to become a Christian till after he was drafted into the Faith by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, believed both that he was justified by faith alone AND that he was predestined to become a son of GOD through his faith in Christ.

And so, we come to Junction Four:

JUNCTION FOUR: Doubt: As long as ANY PART of your Salvation is dependent upon your performance rather than Christ’s Righteousness, you can NEVER be assured of your Eternal Salvation nor of your name’s place in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE.

Religion has been described as man’s effort to reach GOD; religion would be more accurately described as man’s attempt to escape the Lake of Fire and in that regard religion has failed.

The Other Faith

If Religion is mankind’s effort to reach GOD, Spiritism, the Occult and their public relations (PR) firm the so-called “New Age Movement” is mankind’s attempt to BE GOD, and presents an even more insidious and dangerous collaboration between Satan and fallen humanity.

(NOTE: I use the term “spiritism” instead of the older term “spiritualism” to refer to extra-Biblical metaphysics, esoterica and the occult in order to distinguish these ideas from the “orthodox” idea of spirituality as expressed in the Jewish and Christian Holy Scriptures.)

In the next chapter we’ll examine the “catch 22” that honest and sincere spiritists find themselves in.

# Chapter 4:

## The Other Kingdom

Truth in Thought

Just because you have a brain and a mind, it does not follow that you know how to think rationally, reasonably, logically and correctly. Just as children must learn over time how to discipline, train and use their bodies proficiently, they must also do the same with their minds…a task far more challenging than training the body because the mind is so much more complex, powerful and transcendent than the body.

And just as people are uneducated, undisciplined and lazy regarding the care, feeding and exercise of their bodies, the same neglect can be seen in how derelict they (that, is, we) are in the care, feeding and training of the (that is, our) mind.

Of all the college courses I enrolled in, none gave me more pleasure that the Critical Thinking course. This class was a Moment of Awakening and Revelation to me! The idea that following a simple series of principles regarding reason, logic, rationalization and argument could enable me to solve complex problems, discern honesty from deception, improve my circumstances socially, economically and even politically as well as identify a stranger’s intent by what they say and do really blew my mind!

Thought in Spiritism

Why do I start with the topic of critical thinking when addressing the failure of Spiritism to deliver anyone from the Lake of Fire?

Because Spiritism is the doorway to direct contact with Satan and his demons; and to walk through that door you MUST abandon (either once and for all or incrementally over time) the principles of critical thinking.

Critical Faith

“Isn’t it true even of Biblical Faith that one must abandon the principles of critical thinking in order to believe what the Bible says?”

Oh no, Dear Reader…not at all! Secular science, because of its moral bias against and hatred for the GOD described in the Bible, had to “jerry-rig” true scientific fact and invent its own version of science which, contrary to the natural order, builds its palace on the axiom “There is no spirit.” Fortunately, in our day there is a growing number of scientists who have come to realize that, by the principles of rationalization, reason and logic common to all correct thinking, THE UNIVERSE, SCIENCE AND HISTORY CANNOT BE PROPERLY WITHOUT GOD.

When you place the physical universe with its laws and unbiased human history next to the spirituality, history and theology described in the Bible you have a rational, reasonable, logical and entirely consistent pattern of truth.

Thought in Miracles

Even in the area of miracles (which, according to the Bible, are scattered throughout history) you see—at least as far as the Biblical record is concerned—a pattern of Divine Behavior that is specific and functional, as opposed to the weird stuff you find in other religions and Roman Catholicism (talking severed heads, bleeding statues and other such foolishness).

What I am trying to communicate about truly Divine miracles is that while they do transcend logic and reason, they do not contradict logic and reason…and it is critical that you understand the difference.

JUNCTION FIVE: When the One True GOD performs a miracle, that miracle is entirely consistent with His overall Purpose and Agenda; which means that while Divine miracles transcend reason and logic, they do not contradict reason and logic…a distinction that is critical to discerning between the finger of GOD and the lying wonders of Satan.

Spiritism’s Chaos

Back in the day, if you had a roach problem, you could purchase these cheap, little cardboard boxes. In the boxes were bait that would attract the roaches along with a sticky adhesive that, once the creatures had come in contact with it, would not let them go without the sacrifice of a leg or two. Unable to free themselves, the roaches would just die there in the box, which could then be easily disposed of.

Dear Spiritist/Occultist/Seeker, there are no words to describe the angst and hatred Satan has for GOD and you, who bear the Image of GOD (be it ever so faint)! Knowing that his time is short, the Destroyer of Worlds has constructed a “Disneyland” of philosophies, astrologies, horoscopes, spiritual dimensions, lucid dreams and out-of-body experiences, lying familiar spirits, chants, spells, talismans, meditations and even the promise of immortality, deity and power…

…all functioning as bait with the intent to entrap you with himself and his demons in the Lake of Fire for all Eternity because he knows that will break the heart of GOD.

If you take the time, however, to examine all the testimonies of those involved in the New Age Movement, “Eastern Thought” and even Native-American Spiritism, you will notice that THEY ALL CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. Compare Neal Donald Walsh’s “Conversations with God” to Hank Wesselman’s “Spiritwalker” or put William Buhlman’s “Adventures Beyond the Body” next to T. Lobsang Rampa’s “The Cave of the Ancients.”

It becomes frighteningly obvious that what these people have heard from their “ascendant” sources CAN’T ALL BE TRUE when evaluated by the principles of Critical Thinking.

Yet if you place all of these authors in the same room, they would all get along splendidly as if all of their philosophies were logically consistent with each other.

How is this possible???

Relative Truth

Relative truth, when anchored to Absolute Truth, is a valid concept. My favorite color is blue, yours may be pink. My native language may be English, yours may be Navajo. I may be a capitalist, you may be a socialist. Whatever our differences, we both occupy the same physical universe. Capitalism has some worthwhile ideas, as does Socialism. You and I can discuss, debate and work through those ideas and possibly come out of the discussion agreeing on a new point of view that contains the best ideas of both capitalism and socialism.

But if you believe in reincarnation even to the point of remembering past lives, and I’m a born-again Christian with the Holy Spirit dwelling in my heart, one of our experiences, be it ever so real and convincing, is an elaborate experiential LIE.

Satan’s version of relative truth, however, allows both experiences to be true which, to the critical thinking mind, ridiculous. Contradictory relative truth allows the Devil to cast the widest net possible by tricking us into giving up our common sense and the laws of reason, rationalism and logic that GOD put in place to not only protect us, but to provide us a path that will always point to Divine Truth.

At the beginning of this chapter my use of the word “correctly” implies that just as there is a correct way to think, there is also an incorrect way to think…which is the heart of my argument against contradictory relative truth, spiritism and the occult. The Devil wants you to believe that “incorrect” doesn’t exist because “correct,” “truth,” “reason,” “logic” and “fact” are dangerous enemies of the Father of Lies.

Ignorance is Bliss

Nowhere is this more obvious that in the careers of Donald Trump and Adolf Hitler. Just like the Devil himself, these men were (and in Trump’s case ‘are’) experts at seducing their followers with flattery, lies and false promises. Despite being continuously debunked by facts, they both prospered for a time because THEY TOLD THEIR FOLLOWERS EXACTLY WHAT THEIR FOLLOWERS WANTED TO HEAR.

This is possible because at some point their listeners made the decision to become WILLINGLY IGNORANT. When you place all your eggs in the Basket of Lies because the Basket of Truth forces you to face your own shame, evil, wickedness, immorality and ugliness and you’re not willing to deal with them (which is necessary for GOD to free you from them), then eventually you will be forced to face the consequences of living a lie: the Lake of Fire.

Because Absolute Truth (The GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ) exists, the fate of ALL lies that contradict Absolute Truth are doomed oblivion, as are those who cling to them for whatever reason.

Now, at last, in Part Two we can place man’s solutions behind us and discuss GOD’s solution to your greatest problem (the Lake of Fire):

The Gospel of Jesus Christ!

# PART TWO:

## THE SOLUTION

“But now the Righteousness of GOD has been manifested apart from the Law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the Righteousness of GOD through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD, and are justified by His Grace as a Gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom GOD put forward as a Propitiation by His Blood, to be received by faith. This was to show GOD's Righteousness, because in His Divine Forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His Righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

“Then what becomes of our boasting [Pride]? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Or is GOD the GOD of Jews only? Is he not the GOD of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since GOD is One—Who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the Law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the Law!” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 3:21-31

# Chapter 5:

## Culture Shock!

Different

This is the most difficult of all the chapters of this book to write, because I need to explain to you in words that which is unexplainable.

PART TWO will tell you how to be saved (Faith, Repentance, Confession, Profession, Baptism, Citizenship); but before that I have to warn you of the VAST DIFFERENCE that exists between the system of the world (which you’ve grown quite familiar with and are accustomed to) and the Kingdom of GOD…a real CULTURE SHOCK.

This is absolutely necessary; because if you try to operate in the Kingdom of Heaven like you function in the world, you’re going to fail, and fail BIG.

Before the Beginning

To do this, I want to take you back in tine…farther back than you have ever considered or imagined: back before anything existed except The GODHEAD.

The GODHEAD (GOD The Father, GOD The Word and GOD The Holy Spirit [which, according to Revelation 4:5, may actually be Seven Holy Spirits of GOD]) has ALWAYS existed in what theologians call Eternity. Eternity is neither a place nor a time, for space, time and matter don’t exist yet. Eternity is the GODHEAD all by Themselves, with no clock, no waiting and no aging.

The First Family

So here in Eternity are the Members of The GODHEAD; sharing the same Light, the same Thoughts and the same LOVE.

No ignorance, no darkness, no fear, no anger, no bitterness, no misunderstanding, no privacy, no pride, no shame and no need or lack; just UNCONDITIONAL INTIMACY AND LOVE.

THIS IS REALITY; which has always existed, exists even now as you’re reading this and will continue to exist forever and ever and ever and ever.

Under the weight of this ABSOLUTE TRUTH sin, affliction and grief are nothing and less than nothing…an infinitesimal point of darkness that came, went, and is no more forever.

What a contrast to the nightmare into which we were born!

Share the Joy

So…why do we exist???

It wasn’t because The GODHEAD was lonely or bored; it was because THEY WANTED CHILDREN TO SHARE IN THEIR TRANSCENDANT FELLOWSHIP—nothing less… and nothing more.

In Part One I tried to describe what GOD wants to save you FROM; now you know what GOD wants to save you TO!

The Path to Fellowship

To do that He has to FILL YOU UP COMPLETELY WITH HIMSELF (The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and The Resurrection).

But before He can fill you with Himself, He has to BRING YOU BACK FROM DEATH TO LIFE (the New Birth: being Born-Again of the Holy Spirit of GOD just like Jesus Christ was).

And before He can raise you up from spiritual death He has to judge and punish your sin—but that means throwing you into the Lake of Fire, and there’s no coming back from that.

What to do???

The only possible solution would be to PUNISH HIMSELF FOR YOUR SIN (The Cross of Jesus Christ) so that you can be treated as though you had never sinned (Justification)…

…and that, in Its essence, is The Gospel.

This is what GOD did, and religion (mankind’s desperate effort to placate GOD) and spiritism (mankind’s effort to take GOD’s Place) had nothing to do with it.

The Unchangeable GODHEAD changed Themselves to rescue you from a fate worse than death! GOD The Word became GOD The Son to satisfy GOD’s Holiness and Justice against sin AND provide you a path to UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE GODHEAD!!!

No Charge

Here’s the culture shock: with Salvation—as with Heaven—everything is provided by GOD for free…EVERYTHING—including a new, clean, pure heart to love GOD with. So, when I tell you what to do to be saved, I not saying that you are buying Salvation from GOD in return for your obedience.

The Faith you have to believe what I am saying and receive Jesus into your heart IS ALSO A GIFT FROM GOD, along with the Repentance, Confession, Profession, Water Baptism, Holy Spirit Baptism, Sanctification and Glorification of your being when Christ returns to the Earth to receive you to Himself.

IT IS ALL GOD’S FREE GIFT TO YOU.

WHY?

First, because the Relationship between the Members of the GODHEAD is unconditional… therefore the Path provided for you to enter that fellowship must also be unconditional!

Second, because if GOD didn’t GIVE it all to you, THERE’S NO CHANCE IN HELL YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENT(S) ON YOUR OWN.

And now we have reached Junction Six.

JUNCTION SIX: Salvation is completely and totally an Act of GOD; if Salvation weren’t all of GOD, YOU WOULD NEVER MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

Though both Law (the first five books of the Bible in general and the Ten Commandments in particular) and Grace come from GOD, their functions do not coalesce outside of the Person of Jesus Christ. Being born a sinner means you were born under the Law of GOD (of which the laws of men are shadows and mimics). When you are born again of the Spirit of GOD, the culture you were accustomed to as a sinner no longer applies and is incompatible with the Realm of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus you have now been “transported” to (Colossians 1:13).

And now I can tell you how to be saved…

# Chapter 6:

## BELIEVE

Faith not Fantasy

To be saved, you must BELIEVE the Truth of the Gospel I shared with you in Chapter Five.

Obviously, an idea is not true simply because you believe it; you have to be GOD to have that kind of power. There was a time in which I may have seriously considered the existence of Santa Claus (in the modern sense) to be a factual possibility; nevertheless…even if I was so convinced of Saint Claus’ existence that I would commence a worldwide campaign to find him and get him on camera, my belief (faith) would have proven fruitless due to the fact that, in our present day, SANTA CLAUS DOES NOT EXIST.

It is important, then, that you realize that Christians do not suffer from delusions of grandeur. Christians—just like all other rational human souls—understand that faith is only as potent (or, only as REAL) as the object in which that faith is placed.

JUNCTION SEVEN: Faith is only as potent and valuable (or, only as REAL) as the idea, object or person in/upon which that faith is placed.

Confidence not Doubt

It is also true that a Faith invested in Truth is, to all intent and purpose, risk free. The chair I sit in holds my weight; I have no anxiety whatsoever over the possibility of the chair collapsing when I sit in it or my wife not being glad to see me when I come home from work. For this reason, Faith enjoys a child-like confidence; it would never enter my mind that my mother (may GOD rest her soul) would’ve sought to do me harm in any way.

Fact not Imagination

Some truths are obvious; other truths are only discovered with effort, research and time. While the evidence of a sun-centric solar system was always there, it took European science some time to debunk the popular belief that the Earth was the center of the universe. In the same way, though most of us have no problem with the idea of GOD’s Existence, the REAL GOD is quite beyond anything human imagination would’ve drummed up in thousands of years of speculation. The gods we (as a species) have created are ALWAYS like us; the GOD described in the Holy Bible is NOTHING like us—though, in many ways, we are a little like Him. This brings us to where most Christian Faith starts: the Holy Bible.

God’s Last Will and Testament

No other volume than the Holy Bible (also known as the Holy Scriptures) has endured more bans, attacks, pogroms, criticism or analysis; while this is not necessarily proof of its veracity, it is indicative of its importance. That a text so old could’ve remained to our day virtually intact seems quite miraculous…but its unique and persistent ideas have testified to and shaped human thought, society and government beyond measure.

Was the Bible written by men? Yes.

Is the Bible the True Word of the One, True GOD? Absolutely.

This is what the Bible says about itself; and countless millions have testified to the same...including me. I cannot give room in this book to enumerate in detail the histories and proofs of the Bible’s authenticity (there are countless other books available for that), yet I will say that, apart from the universe itself and the human race in particular, the quickest means by which you may grasp GOD—at least in the intellectual sense—is by reading and studying the Holy Bible.

In the Bible you have the history of the world—in its entirety—from beginning to end. There is no need for you to speculate on global warming, the next ice age or how our sun will meet its end; everything you need to know regarding the fate of the universe itself is written with ever so confident detail in the pages of the Bible. And the Bible is clear: the universe will end…AND YOU WILL BE THERE TO SEE IT END.

And you will meet GOD face to Face; and all of His Attention will fall upon you (as it does now, though you may not perceive it), and you will either rejoice or wither under the weight of His Gaze.

The Bible is the most-read volume in history; it is also the most neglected. Most people cannot endure a reading of the Bible from cover to cover; not because of the time it would take (60-75 hours out loud, 56+ hours reading silently) but because of what it would do to you. The Bible is a Living Book inspired by the Living GOD; it cuts through all delusion and self-righteousness, slaying ego and arrogance. It will dissect your being into spirit soul and body; It will tell you what you really are and what is in your heart. It will turn you to dust…and (if you let it) it will give you immortality.

I said that most (not all) Christian Faith starts with the Bible; before the Bible existed GOD spoke with humans directly to share with them His Purpose and Plan (and their part in it), to give them promises on which to base their faith and to comfort them in their distress and, of course, to fellowship with them. It’s common to believe that, because the Bible now exists, that GOD doesn’t communicate directly with humans anymore; such an idea is woefully heretical. Salvation itself is a very real and direct Act of GOD upon the human soul…an Act that initiates an ongoing relationship between Creator and creature that only grows stronger with time. The Bible can never replace the New Birth and its subsequent intimacies.

That being said, in the Holy Scriptures we have “a more sure Word of prophecy” (2nd Peter 1:19) against which all supernatural experiences and claims can be measured and judged. The Bible, both in its Old and New Testaments, provides us a clear and distinct description of the One True GOD, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. Allowing our personal feelings, thoughts and beliefs to deviate from that Divine Testimony will only serve to do us great harm.

Which “Believe”?

Let’s regroup.

We are saved by believing the truths presented in the Bible; the most critical of these truths is the Bible’s testimony concerning the Person of Yeshua Ha Messiach (Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Christ…Jesus the Anointed One).

But let’s not fool ourselves; the idea “to believe” has many shades of meaning…so, which meaning of the word is the Bible referring to when it says “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved…” (Acts 16:31)?

When talking about Biblical “Faith” (from the Old French feid, from Latin fides) we usually translate this word “belief,” “trust” or “confidence.” This kind of belief is nearly always relational, not unlike the confidence a child has in his parents before he realizes that they are as flawed as he is. How is it possible to have such a relationship with a Creator Who cannot be seen, touched or understood?

The True Faith

By GOD’s Holy Spirit.

Here is where Christianity separates itself from the crowd.

I am well aware (from years of research into the metaphysic and esoteric) that people exist on Earth who have made contact with the spiritual realm. Their exciting testimonies both fascinate and entice the modern soul with adventures, trials, quests and encounters with ancient beings that have traversed the universe at break-neck speeds.

Nevertheless, there are countless myriads of pleasures, virtues and treasures one can only receive in the Presence of their Creator: things like Holiness, Purity, Righteousness, Justice and Divine Truth, which is always relevant, universal, eternal and timeless. Above all these is a Baptism of Love which is unconditional, unselfish, unspoiled, unending and compassionate, merciful, forgiving and redemptive.

There is no greater palace, no safer shelter, no more secure bastion than the Presence of The GODHEAD.

What I am saying is this: GOD lovingly provides both the Truth that saves us from the Lake of Fire as well as the Saving Faith necessary to believe on (from the heart) and live by that Saving Truth.

JUNCTION EIGHT: GOD lovingly provides both the Truth that saves us from the Lake of Fire as well as the Saving Faith necessary to believe on (from the heart) and live by that Saving Truth.

Having reached this far in the manuscript, you may have noticed that Junctions Five, Six and Eight are saying essentially the same thing in different ways.

Why the redundancy?

First, because of the desperate urgency of my message. You need to get this. If you’re already saved, you need this to help you both become established in your faith as well as have the means at your disposal to share your faith with others AND HAVE THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU’RE SAYING. The Lord Jesus Himself said that the End of our world would not come until This Gospel is declared as a witness to all nations everywhere (Matthew 24:14). Current statistics estimate that about half of the world’s population has yet to hear the Gospel; all Christians need to do their part—both by spoken word, prayed word and financial and resource support—to cooperate with GOD in making sure everyone has the opportunity to be saved from the Lake of Fire!

Secondly, to in some way counteract the entropies of fallen human nature. From the earliest age we are taught to value the maturity and independence of “adulthood;” Jesus says that unless we humble ourselves and become again as little children, we cannot enter or operate in the Kingdom of GOD (Matthew 18:3). We are taught to define maturity—even spiritual maturity in terms of independence, self-righteousness and self-sufficiency; Jesus says that without Him the Christian is absolutely and entirely helpless and impotent (John 15:4,5). Until we stop seeing ourselves as gods in need of assistance or advice and realize that we are entirely and totally depraved and in desperate need of a Shepherd (Revelation 3:17,18; John 10:10,11), Christianity will be just another religion and The Gospel will have lost its life-changing power.

We can never be allowed to experience the Power of GOD’s Holy Spirit until we fully understand that we are perfectly bankrupt, with nothing to offer GOD except our sin, our shame and our failure.

JUNCTION NINE: We can never be allowed to experience the Power of GOD’s Holy Spirit until we fully understand that we are absolutely bankrupt (both morally and spiritually), with nothing to offer GOD except our sin, our shame and our failure.

This is how true, saving Faith is identified: it is a Faith completely void of any pride, self-confidence or strength of will (Matthew 5:3). It is a Faith that understands: if GOD doesn’t do in me what I’m incapable of accomplishing in myself, I am doomed to the Lake of Fire with the rest of humanity. The good news is that Christ has promised: if we come to Him, He will not cast us out for any reason (John 6:37)!

# Chapter 7:

## REPENT

Like so many other terms sucked into the dark house of religion, “repentance” has been misinterpreted and misconstrued to convey ideas GOD never had in mind. Let us, therefore, start from scratch and pretend that we’ve never heard the verb “repent,” nor the noun “repentance” and see what the Bible really says about the idea.

Hebrew

In Biblical Hebrew there are two words translated “repent” in the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

SVB - To Return

שׁוּב (svb) is the more popular word (over a thousand instances) and means “to return,” in the physical, geographical sense. This is the first “layer” of meaning. Hebrew is a simple language with a limited vocabulary (about 60,000 words) …quite small compared to German (300,000 words). Hebrew successfully describes the human experience by adding layers of meaning upon existing words.

The first passage this word is used in is:

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” – God, Genesis 3:19

GOD made a “statue” of Himself from the dust of the ground, gave it life and called it Adam (Hebrew “red man”). Disobeying GOD inevitably brought Adam death: spiritual, psychological and physical…in that order. “…return to the ground” is a reference to physical death…a death we all share with Adam. In dying Adam returned to the ground from which he was made (the first layer of meaning); the other layers (spiritual and mental death) are implied.

The thing to notice about this use of the word is that the act of returning isn’t voluntary, but a Divine directive. Adam and his descendants must return to the ground until, at the Last Day, every male and female human who has ever existed are called back by GOD from the ground…never to return to it again.

SVB - To Turn Back (Recede)

Genesis Chapters 6-8 describe GOD’s decision to annihilate the antedeluvians with a world-wide flood. After nearly five months GOD used the wind to push the waters back from the face of the Earth:

“But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.” – Genesis 8:1-4

The word “receded” underlined in the previous quotation is our same Hebrew word svb with another layer of meaning: a reference to the waters that covered the Earth returning to their place of origin.

SVB - To Turn Away (Reject)

The last layer of meaning we shall consider for the Hebrew word svb is rejection: those instances in the Biblical record when GOD metaphorically “turned His Face from” the people of Israel, ignoring their prayers and treating them like any other nation. Examples of this include:

“For if you return to the Lord, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away His Face from you, if you return to Him.” – King Hezekiah, 2nd Chronicles 30:9

“I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me.” – God, Jeremiah 32:40

NCM – Emotions

נָחַם (ncm) is a fascinating and mysterious word with not a few layers of meaning (including being translated as “repent”); the overall impression is that of an idea loaded with emotions that include sorrow (for one’s sin), penitence, regret, relenting, relief, comfort, consolation, compassion and ease.

“And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His Heart.” – Genesis 6:6

“Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.” – Genesis 24:67

“When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, ‘Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.’” – Exodus 13:17

“And the Lord relented from the disaster that He had spoken of bringing on His people.” – Exodus 32:14

“Therefore the Lord declares (the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel):

‘Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes.’” – Isaiah 1:24

“You will say in that day: ‘I will give thanks to You, O Lord, for though You were angry with me, Your Anger turned away, that You might comfort me.’” – Isaiah 12:1

When we reach the end of ourselves and discover (and admit to GOD) how bankrupt and helpless we are, the Same Holy Spirit Who convicts us of sin becomes our Comforter and Companion…assuring us of GOD’s constant supply of Grace and healing our hearts of their wounds. We are brought into the Same Fellowship with The Father that Jesus enjoys and are able to even treat our enemies with the Compassion of Heaven!

Greek

After-Thought

There are two Greek words translated “repent” in the New Testament. μετανοέω is by far the word most often used in the New Testament for “repent” (thirty-four times) and has a different focus from its Hebrew equivalent. While the Hebrew word for “repent” focuses on the physical act (and therefore the behavior) of turning 180 degrees and returning to GOD, the Greek word focuses on the mental\_process.

μετανοέω means “after-thought;” it implies the review of some past act of yours (or even your entire way of life [your philosophy]) and changing your mind about it. This “change of mind” then inspires you to, if at all possible, to reverse the consequences of that past act by committing other acts that produce an opposite effect from the errant past act.

Nowhere in the New Testament is this word used more than in the last book: the Book of Revelation...so let’s look at a couple of passages from thence:

“But I have this against you: that you have abandoned the Love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.” – Jesus Christ, Revelation 2:4,5

“The rest of mankind--who were not killed by these plagues--did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood (which cannot see or hear or walk), nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” – The Apostle John, Revelation 9:20,21

The content of these passages is clear, and dovetail with the meaning of the Hebrew word for “repent.” In all cases there is (1) the review of a past act (and yes: I do consider thoughts to be actions); (2) the conviction (in the case of Salvation, shared with the human soul by GOD [more on this in a bit]) that the act or lifestyle under review was displeasing to GOD; (3) repentence, in which the human soul has sided with GOD against itself; and (4) the commitment (made to GOD) to make amends by either a change in thinking, behavior, lifestyle or all three.

After-Care

The second word is μεταμέλλομαι, and is does not occur nearly as much as μετανοέω does in the New Testament (only six times). This word can be translated “after-care,” which is connected with doing or saying something flippantly (without considering the consequences it has on others), then later reviewing the act with concern (conviction) as to whether or not it was the right and proper thing to do.

This is seen in Christ’s parable of the two sons (no, not the one you’re thinking of, but the other one):

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

“And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.

“And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.

“Which of the two did the will of his father?

“They said, ‘The first.’

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the Kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the Way of Righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 21:28-32

Caring about how one’s actions affect others is evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work in the human soul. As we grow in grace, that concern will happen before we act, instead of after. More importantly, we need to consider HOW OUR ACTIONS AFFECT GOD.

“Nothing affects GOD,” you say...

...are you sure? Since we were created in GOD’s image and likeness and GOD is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-present, doesn’t it logically follow that GOD is ALL-FEELING? I suspect that the human soul would be completely incapacitated by even a small portion of Divine Emotion. This is the picture painted for us by the words of Holy Scripture. The Bible records GOD being grieved, experiencing regret, being frustrated, being angry and even being joyful to the extent of singing!

At the same time the Bible tells us that, of necessity, GOD is patient. He has to be. A Being that could melt mountains with His Aura could easily in a moment of rage extinguish the entire human species.

Such a Being should be respected, reverenced and yes...even feared.

Your Turn

There you have it: nearly everything the Bible has to say about repentance...

...so what about you? Have you repented of your self-sufficiency, your independence, your adulthood and your GOD-lessness? Have you realized that living each conscious moment in GOD’s presence is far better than the illusion of living each moment alone in the prison of your mind with your thoughts and imagination?

I’m going to close this chapter with the best

description of repentance in all the Bible: Christ’s parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). Yet, if you carefully listen to the words of the prodigal (Verse 18), he is not simply returning to the place of his birth…he is returning to his Father! This is the true meaning of repentance: not the restoration of the rule of law or the simple decision to stop doing bad things, but the reconciliation of two souls wounded by a broken relationship! Like true faith, true repentance is always relational.

Now I know what you’re thinking: “…two souls wounded…”? Surely Christ is not implying that GOD The Father has been somehow injured by the falls of Lucifer and Adam, has He?

That’s exactly what Christ was saying. This is one of many paradoxes you will find in the Bible; they are not indicators of the Bible contradicting itself, but doors to great mysteries that are only revealed through prayer and study. GOD, full of power, knowledge, wisdom, truth and Fullness itself (or rather Himself, a reference to the Holy Spirit of GOD) …though in need of nothing, LONGS for the fellowship and attention of His precious children.

Your personal neuroses (guilt, shame, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.) notwithstanding, when you pray GOD STOPS WHAT HE’S DOING AND LISTENS! Your perception of His Presence (or lack thereof) is irrelevant; what matters is the truth and your faith in the truth…not your feelings. I will say more on this in a later chapter.

JUNCTION TEN: Your personal neuroses (guilt, shame, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.) notwithstanding, when you pray GOD STOPS WHAT HE’S DOING AND LISTENS! Your perception of His Presence (or lack thereof) is irrelevant; what matters is the truth and your faith in the truth…not your feelings.

Look at Christ’s description of the father’s disposition: he saw the prodigal before the prodigal saw him! Furthermore, the father saw his son while the son was “yet a great way off!” The implication is that the father, though full of obligations, responsibilities and commitments TOOK TIME OUT OF HIS DAY TO LOOK AND SEE IF HIS SON WAS COMING HOME. Day after day, week after week, month after month and maybe even year after year the father was full of desire to have his rebel son back at his side.

And when the son’s tattered, weary figure finally appeared on the road after so long a time, the father’s first thought was on how much the poor boy had suffered, not on the loss of his own property and wealth or the worry and anxiety he endured in his son’s absence.

I don’t doubt that, with two sons, the father must have been an old man with waning strength; yet the elderly father runs down the road while the prodigal is yet a great way off to pull his long-lost child into his arms, giving praise and thanks to GOD that his boy is not dead.

The entire Fifteenth Chapter of Luke, dear Reader, is born out of a criticism by the religious leaders of Jesus’ fondness for the companionship of riff-raff, outcasts, publicans (contractors who supplied the hated Romans) and sinners (those who did not attend synagogue nor offer sacrifices at the Temple nor showed any devotion towards GOD). The shepherd, the woman and the father of the prodigal are all snapshots of GOD Who has lost someone very, very precious to Him (you), and longs with all His Being to have you back safe in His arms—yet is helpless until you decide to return to Him in your heart (repentance)!

Conviction

Conviction is an Act of GOD upon the human heart and mind that creates faith in the heart and enables the human to view their works (and themselves) from GOD’s (i.e., Christ’s) perspective. Conviction often happens when the human ear is listening to Divine Truth (i.e., the Gospel). Repentance is the appropriate response to the Conviction of the Holy Spirit of GOD. That being said, conviction is not always followed by repentance. The human mind can resist GOD’s influence upon the human heart and, decide to NOT follow through with a commitment to change the mind and behavior to line up with the conviction given by GOD through His Holy Spirit.

Remember: repentance, like faith and Grace, is a Gift of GOD (Acts 5:31; 11:18)...a gift without which you cannot escape the Lake of Fire. If and when the Gift is offered, accept it with open arms, an open mind and an open heart.

According to the Bible, the human is a tripartite (three-part) being: spirit, soul and body. Through conviction and repentance GOD is shaping the human mind after His Own Mind, the Human spirit (heart) after His Own Heart and, through penitent acts (a change in lifestyle) filling the human body with His Own Fullness. The process is faster with some than with others, but is still the same process for every soul that is saved.

That connection between the human spirit and the Divine Holy Spirit (which is always initiated by the Later) is what the Bible refers to as The New Birth, or being born again of water (the Word of GOD) and the Spirit (of GOD).

That process comes to fruition when the human believer opens their mouth to make a Confession of sin and a Profession of faith.

# Chapter 8:

## The Two ‘Fessions

The Mouth of GOD

In the beginning (according to the Holy Bible) GOD The Word (nowadays known as Jesus Christ the Savior of the World) designed and created everything—and everyone—that now exists. It is also true that GOD The Word designed everything that did exist yet exists no longer as well as everything—and everyone—that is yet to exist (I’m just being thorough).

And with one glaring exception, GOD The Word created all by speaking them into existence.

(Yes, I know that the Bible doesn’t say how GOD created angels except to say that He makes them “spirits” and “flames of fire.” I also realize that the angels existed before the physical universe, possibly implying that there was a spiritual universe before there was a physical universe… stay with me, here.)

Special Creation

The glaring exception is the creation of Adam and Eve (GOD called both the male and female “Adam” and it was Adam who named his wife “Eve”). In its original language the Old Testament Book of Genesis says that GOD “formed” (Hebrew, ytsr) Adam in the same way a potter shapes clay into a vessel; the impression is that GOD took great care (and love) to reproduce His Image and Likeness in the body of Adam before He breathed into Adam’s nostrils the “Breath of Life.” When GOD looked at the finished Adam, He saw Himself in a physical form. Though created from the dust of the Earth, Adam awoke into That Same Intimate Fellowship the Members of The GODHEAD had always enjoyed.

She-Adam’s creation was no less intimate: putting He-Adam to sleep, GOD removed one of his ribs…and from that rib GOD sculpted the first human woman. This is why theologians call mankind a “special creation” of GOD.

Speech

All that being said, my point is this: because Adam (male and female) are created in GOD’s Image and Likeness, humans behave like GOD, only on a much, much, much smaller scale. This includes speech and the power of words. Words are how we reach out of these bodies of matter and share ourselves with each other. Words shape our families, societies and culture and are shaped by the same. Words are how we communicate who we are, what we need, and what we intend to do. The Lord Jesus declared concerning the spoken word:

“I tell you, on the Day of Judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 12:36,37

The implications of this Divine Decree are staggering. And--of course--if our casual, careless and idle words are recorded, our more serious communications are also on record in Heaven. We must, therefore, conclude that SPOKEN WORDS ARE HUMAN ACTS WHICH ARE RECORDED IN HEAVEN METICULOUSLY.

JUNCTION ELEVEN: Spoken words are human acts which are recorded in Heaven meticulously.

Is your mind blown yet? If so, go ahead and put this book down and ponder the far-reaching impact of these eleven junctions…I’ll be here when you get back…

…you need never again concern yourself about being alone or listened to. The very hairs of your head are numbered, and every word you speak is recorded—not only in the Mind of Deity, but in the books of Heaven!

“…for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 12:37

Saved by Speaking

Speaking the Divine Truths—especially those of The Gospel—that you’ve come to believe is absolutely necessary for you to be saved. This is no strange thing, for we speak what we believe all the time in most circumstances (unless we’re lying or trying to be deceptive or cryptic). Speaking the Truth of the Gospel from a heart touched by the conviction of Faith is evidence of Salvation in the soul.

“As He [Jesus] was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged Him that he might be with Him. And He did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.’

“And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.” – Mark 5:18-20

“And I tell you: everyone who acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but the one who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God…And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” – Jesus Christ, Luke 12:8-12

“And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, ‘Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.’

“And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David.’

“When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him, and Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’

“They said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord.’

“Then He touched their eyes, saying, ‘According to your faith be it done to you.’

“And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, ‘See that no one knows about it.’

“But they went away and spread His fame through all that district.” – Matthew 9:27-31

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’

“And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’

“And he [the eunuch] answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’

“And he [the eunuch] ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water--Philip as well as the eunuch--and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.” – Luke, Acts 8:26-39

“For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who does the Commandments shall live by them. But the Righteousness based on Faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, `Who will ascend into Heaven?`’

(that is, to bring Christ down)

or

‘`Who will descend into the abyss?`’

(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

“But what does it say? ‘The Word is near you: in your mouth and in your heart’”

(that is, the Word of Faith that we proclaim);

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.’

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For ‘everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved.’” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 10:5-13

Confession and Profession

The words “confession” and “profession” each have their own history in the English language. In today’s vernacular “confession” usually refers to admission of guilt and “profession” is when an individual either describes their occupation or shares information from the perspective of a subject matter expert (SME). Another layer of complexity is added when you use these words to translate 1st century Koine Greek. That being said, I’m going to do my best to keep this simple.

Confession of Faith

In the theology of the Bible the idea of confession has three meanings:

1. Praise/Thanksgiving/Extollation:   
*“At that time Jesus declared, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was Your Gracious Will.’” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:25*

2. Adherence to or declaration of Statement(s) that identify you with a particular group (in our\_case,\_Christians):  
*“And he [the eunuch] answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’” - Acts 8:37*

3. Admission, acknowledgement or disclosure of one’s sins, evil attitudes or character flaws:  
*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – the Apostle John, 1st John 1:9*

The passage quoted from Romans Chapter Ten is a verification of Junctions Five and Six (and, indirectly, Eight). The message of the passage is that GOD doesn’t expect you to perform Christ’s Achievements (ascending into Heaven and descending into Hell) but to accept them as the means by which you are accepted with GOD. Christ did for you what you could’ve never in a million years accomplished on your own; you must stand and depend upon His Works, and toss all your accomplishments into the trash heap of human history (Philippians 3:7,8). Christianity—and Christianity ALONE—adopts this philosophy of Righteousness by Faith in what GOD did for me…not what I did—or could ever do—for GOD!

Once you understand in both your heart and mind the boundless magnanimity of what was done for you on The Cross of Jesus Christ, no one will be able to stop you from sharing this Good News at every opportunity with everyone you come in contact with…this is your Confession of Faith.

Profession of Faith

The meaning of “profession” overlaps that of “confession” in that, in today’s vernacular, when one makes a “profession of faith” they are declaring themselves to be a Christian. In addition to declaring one’s faith, occupation or skill, “profess” also is used to make a promise or guarantee (Greek, ἐπαγγέλλω).

Christianity is certainly not a religion, but it is not far-fetched to consider Christianity to be a profession…a profession everyone is called to, yet a profession not everyone is chosen for (Matthew 22:14). What is the occupation Christians are called to? It is the job of the Christian to walk with GOD…to enjoy His Company and to fellowship with Him…to worship Him and to be a conduit and factory of His Glory and Grace…to rule all creation under His Authority and with His Wisdom and Kindness.

Confession of Sin

Technically this section doesn’t belong here, but I thought it prudent to set it here; the last idea placed in a chapter is more easily remembered, and it is important you remember what I am writing regarding the confession of sin.

The Confessional

The Roman Catholic confessional paints a dangerously heretical and misleading picture of absolution, placing its authority squarely in the hands of a church presbytery that passes out forgiveness in exchange for a list of misdeeds and the recitation of the rosary. ONLY GOD THE WORD (IN THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST) HAS AUTHORITY ON EARTH TO FORGIVE SINS AND APPLY HIS OWN BLOOD TO THE SOUL OF THE SINNER!

JUNCTION TWELVE: Only GOD The Word (in the Person of The Lord Jesus Christ) has authority on Earth to forgive sins and apply His own Blood to the soul of the sinner!

Yes: Christ did tell His Apostles that if they remitted or retained any person’s sins Christ Himself would support their decision (John 20:22,23). Verse 22 says that the Risen Christ breathed on the Apostles, saying “Receive the Holy Spirit” before His statement about forgiveness. The significance of this statement is that, after the Apostles had received the Fullness of GOD The Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they would—as all Christians should—live in, walk in and be led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16,25). In this context, the decision to forgive would not originate with the Apostles, but with GOD.

Confession: Reality Check

One of the many side-effects of eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (which we all did in the person of our Ancestor Adam) is the development in one’s dark heart a definition of “good” that does not include GOD at all. The Lake of Fire will be crowded with humans that honestly considered themselves to be “good” people, yet either felt no need of GOD or created a “God” in their imagination that had little, if anything, in common with the Real GOD. This imaginary “God” praised their accomplishments, excused their “faux pas” and stroked their egos by comparing them to people of “lesser stature.”

Remember: you cannot feed on both the Tree of Life (a symbol of Christ) and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; the Knowledge of Good and Evil ALWAYS brings death, for the “goodness” provided by the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is NOT Real, Divine Goodness but a goodness produced in demonic and human minds which is entirely self-worshiping, self-absorbed and self-glorifying…in a word, religion.

To keep Christians free from this imaginary goodness GOD has instituted the practice of confessing our sins (and sinful nature) to not only receive forgiveness, but also to grant us relief from the constant threat of self-righteousness which presents itself anytime there is the perception of “spiritual progress.”

Such a spiritual discipline is no doubt a rather uncomfortable assault on the human ego which, in nearly every case, is over-inflated beyond imagination. Why else are we so easily devastated emotionally by the critiques and opinions of others? Why else do we neglect a Bible that constantly reminds us of impending judgment or an effective prayer life that compels us to humble ourselves before a Being Who is incomprehensibly wiser, kinder, smarter and holier than ourselves?

A realistic view of ourselves in the Light of the Holy Scriptures and in the Presence of Almighty GOD is what we call HUMILITY; and without this humility Salvation is simply impossible.

JUNCTION THIRTEEN: A realistic view of ourselves in the Light of the Holy Scriptures and in the Presence of Almighty GOD is what we call HUMILITY; and without this humility Salvation is simply impossible.

It’s important to understand the Biblical meaning of humility in contrast to the modern meaning of the word “humiliation.” Humiliation comes from an external source: a person or group of people intent on cutting your ego “down to size.” Biblical humility comes from the heart of a soul that has seen themselves through GOD’s Eyes…to realize how filthy and inadequate they are compared to GOD’s Meekness, Lovingkindness, Purity, Goodness, Mercy, Righteousness, Justice and Holiness.

To see yourself as you really are, you must first see GOD as He really is; this Sight only comes by direct revelation from the Holy Spirit of Christ.

Total Depravity

“Total Depravity” is a phrase made ubiquitous by the Reformer John Calvin to describe a Biblical teaching regarding the nature of mankind. The idea, still controversial for many evangelicals to this very day, states that in its current fallen state, the human species is completely, totally and absolutely incapable of any desire or inclination to return to GOD, having become its own god…so to speak.

The Madness of Pride

To return to GOD, the fallen human race would have to forfeit its self-delusion of godhood which, as a matter of fact, is the core of its sinful nature…otherwise known as pride. To give up self-worship would be tantamount to giving up sin; this is impossible for the sinner to do because, having lost its ability to connect to (or the memory of its former connection with) GOD, the sinner needs self-worship (or the worship of other objects of admiration such as celebrities and leaders of various kinds) and therefore needs sin to avoid the madness that eventually swallows all sinners (this is how fallen angels become demons: the loss of their connection to GOD drives them insane).

True Value

The absence of GOD in the life of a human soul means the absence of value, meaning and purpose. Without value, meaning and purpose we either go mad, commit suicide, or both. Pride, false goodness and false gods (idols) are used to put value, meaning and purpose back into our lives, but, as pseudo-sources, they will eventually fail. Reconnecting with GOD through the Lord Jesus Christ not only provides real value, meaning and purpose, but provides them at a level beyond human comprehension. The promise of the Gospel is that GOD The Father gives us Christ, Who is of TRANSCENDENT VALUE to Him; and in so doing we become as valuable to GOD as Christ is!

JUNCTION FOURTEEN: The promise of the Gospel is that GOD The Father gives us Christ, Who is of TRANSCENDENT VALUE to Him; and in so doing we become as valuable to GOD as Christ is!

Confession of sin is a gift given to us to remind us that GOD doesn’t love us because of any value we have in ourselves (for we are made of the dust of the ground, the most abundant substance on Earth), but because of His Own Great Love for us, which compelled Him to give us His Value, His Holiness, His Divine Goodness…against all of which there is no weapon formed that can prosper!

# Chapter 9:

## The First Baptism

History

Baptism is an ordinance that goes back quite far in Judeo-Christian history (about 2,000 years). In the first century before Christ’s Incarnation, Jews would build mikvehs for ritual immersion to symbolize spiritual purification prior to certain life changes and religious acts.

Ritual Washing

Prior to the first century before the common era (BCE) there is no record either in the Bible nor in Jewish sources of ritual immersion; yet in the Old Testament we do have GOD instituting the idea of ritual washing.

To rescue the Children of Israel (all twelve tribes as well as a “mixed” multitude that decided the God of Israel was the True GOD) GOD literally came down out of Heaven to the Earth to identify Himself with Israel, declaring to all nations that Israel was His Chosen People.

A critical benefit of that Divine Identification was that GOD Himself would “tabernacle” (take up residence) in the midst of His People for as long as they existed on the Earth! The problem was that Israel, like the rest of the nations of humanity, were sinners! While it is true that GOD is “merciful, gracious [and]…longsuffering” (Exodus 34:6), being in such close proximity to any nation of sinners would pose a grave threat to that nation (read the Book of Exodus and see what GOD did to the Egyptians for their simple refusal to let the Israelites go).

GOD therefore designed a Special Area (known as the Court of the Tabernacle) in the center of the Israeli camp with a special structure for Himself to “dwell” in along with meticulous protocols to keep the Israelites safe from His uncompromising, all-consuming Wrath against Sin itself.

In addition to requiring that the Israelites keep themselves physically fastidious at all times and especially on special occasions they were to appear together before Him, GOD had a large “laver” (basin) made of bronze and filled with water placed in the Court of the Tabernacle so that those that served in the Court (known as “priests”) could ritually wash themselves before engaging in their tasks.

Ritual Immersion

With that background, let’s come forward, back to the first century BCE. The theory behind Judaic ritual immersion is that when we are in our mothers’ womb, we are incapable of sinning. Therefore, prior to coming into the Presence of a sinless GOD, we would symbolically return to that womb through submerging our bodies completely in the mikveh. On emerging from the mikveh, we have symbolically been “born again” and are ready to come before GOD.

Prior to the Advent of Christianity (and certainly in the Jewish mind of that time) there existed an unbreakable symbiosis between the idea of Salvation and the ethnic concept of Israel as a nation (though ten of the twelve tribes had been scattered and the three tribes of Asher, Levi and Benjamin had become closely aligned to the geographical province of Judea, which was always associated with the Jews (named after the Israeli tribe of Judah). If you were neither an Israelite nor a Jew and decided to be “saved” (restored to a right standing with GOD) you would, in essence, have to become an Israelite (or Jew). This meant abandoning the nation or tribe you were born into and being “born again” through the mikveh to become a member of the Nation of Israel.

The Greatest Prophet Ever!

Into this environment GOD “throws” John the Baptist, the only sinner filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment of conception, who came with the revolutionary proposition that being an Israelite (of which the Jews were only one tribe) was itself no longer enough to be saved! GOD was about to do something totally new that severed the symbiotic relationship between Salvation and the genetic pool of the Nation of Israel (and the Jews in particular) and required that, in order to be saved, something supernatural had to happen in your [Jewish or gentile] heart if you were to be saved. John the Baptist urgently warned his listeners that Someone was coming Who would no longer concern Himself with a persons’ ethnic background, but could make any soul a spiritual Jew by means of the Holy Spirit of GOD, which this Someone possessed in all His (the Holy Spirit’s) Divine Fullness (Matthew 3:9). This Someone, Whom John called the “Lamb of GOD,” would strike at the root cause of humanity’s ills… once and for all annulling the Law of Sin and Death that stood between Mankind and GOD!

To “opt in” to this New Covenant GOD was about to make, the Jews had to be “mikveh’d” (“baptized” in the Greek transliteration) by John to publicly declare that they were willing to abandon the Old Covenant (The Ten Commandments) GOD made through Moses for the superior New Covenant that was coming! In that New Covenant, the Someone Who was coming would introduce a New Baptism; a Baptism in the Fire of GOD: The Holy Spirit Himself!

That Someone of Whom John the Baptist spoke is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of the Living GOD!

Baptism Under Christ’s Earthly Ministry

Two of John’s disciples (a disciple is one who not only submitted to John’s baptism, but committed himself to John’s discipline [lifestyle]) were Andrew (the brother of Simon Cephas Peter and son of John) and John (the brother of James and son of Zebedee). It may be that, as disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and John performed baptisms themselves.

Eventually Jesus came to His cousin John the Baptist to be baptized, and in so doing His intent was to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). When Christ and the Baptist parted company, Christ took Andrew and John with Him.

In time Jesus gathered a respectable following. Besides the Twelve Apostles, there were at least seventy other disciples who were active participants in Christ’s earthly ministry, besides a group of women and relatives. By the time He was resurrected and preparing to return to Heaven, the number of His servants was well over five hundred (1st Corinthians 15:6). This was due in part to the fact that Jesus’ disciples were also baptizing. Was every “baptizee” a believer? No doubt. Was every baptizee a disciple? It’s probable that most were. Like the Baptist’s, Jesus’ baptism was one of repentance with the added truth of Jesus’ Identity as the Only Begotten Son of the Living GOD and Messiah (Hebrew, “The Anointed One,” Greek, “The Christ”).

It is safe to say that during Christ’s earthly ministry everyone who became a disciple of Christ was baptized by one of His Apostles.

The Church Era

On the first day of the Feast of Weeks, fifty days after the Passover on which Christ offered Himself for our sins (hence the alias “Pentecost”) and ten days after Christ returned to GOD The Father, GOD The Holy Spirit fell in His Fullness upon the Apostles and those gathered with them in the upper room where the famed Last Supper took place.

On that Day Jerusalem was filled with Jews from all over the inhabited world, and the crowd around the upper room heard the tornado-like Wind from Heaven, and those within came out to the crowd…so filled with GOD that they had to steady themselves to keep their balance.

After some misunderstandings the Apostle Peter spoke up and delivered the Jewish sermon to end all Jewish sermons. To the listeners it was as though they had been in a dark room all their lives, but now Heaven had finally thrown the switch and they were ready to do anything to keep that Light on.

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’

“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. For the Promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.’

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this untoward generation.’

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” -- Dr. Luke, Acts 2:37-41

The Idea of Water Baptism

Do you have to be baptized to be saved? Those who say “No” point to the thief who was crucified next to Christ (Luke 23:39-43). I side with those who say the thief’s own crucifixion and death, having been sanctified by his faith in Christ, was his baptism. Did not Jesus Himself refer to His Passion on that fateful Passover a baptism (Mark 10:38)? Whatever position you may take on the necessity of water baptism, receiving and adopting the idea behind the rite is critical to being saved:

When Jesus died, I died…the ME the world knew…the ME my family knew…the ME I thought I knew…the evil me…the me I hate and am ashamed of (John 12:25)…

…when Jesus physically (Spirit, Soul and Body) rose from the dead I rose…the Real me…the me that is hidden in Christ…the me that is as loving, as joyful, as peaceful, as longsuffering, as gentle, as faithful, as meek, as temperate, as pure, as holy and as righteous as Christ is.

The difference from religion, metaphysics, esoterica and spiritism is that IT’S NOT MY VIRTUES that are in me (because in truth I AM BANKRUPT…I have no virtues of my own)…but the Virtues of the ALMIGHTY GODHEAD that have been given to me free of charge…

…Virtues that are Eternal, Incorruptible and Unfading.

This is the idea behind baptism: a public declaration of an Act of GOD which has forever both united me to Christ and simultaneously separated me from the Devil, from the World, from my nation and tribe, from my family and yes: even from my own idea of who I am!

Today in America baptisms are conducted in churches, away from the eyes of the world. Originally, however, baptisms were performed in public, in living water (a river deep enough to submerge a believer’s body) in the eyes of everyone who came to the river that day for various reasons in order to publicly declare the believer’s change of citizenship from Earth to Heaven, from death to Life, from judgment to Justification and from shame to Peace.

If you are a believer and you can be baptized, you should be baptized.

Water baptism is the symbol of a Christian’s unbreakable, eternal union with Jesus…

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, however, is not a symbol at all, but the down payment of the Saints Eternal Marriage to Christ in which all of Messiah’s Fullness, like great rivers of Living Water gushing out of the core of their beings, glorifies them…transforming them into mighty quasars of Divine Light!

# Chapter 10:

## The Second and Third Baptisms

Baptism in the Secular World

Baptism isn’t an English word; it’s a Greek word that did its job so well that the English language stole it (by way of Latin and French).

In the previous chapter we discussed baptism from the perspective of the Judeo-Christian tradition; in this chapter we shall address the topic of baptism from a secular perspective.

In ancient Greece the dyeing of cloth was a lucrative industry with a long and expensive process. Purple dye was created from either madder root or murex shellfish; preparing the dye, including deciding on the hue of color, took 10 days. Fleeces, fibers or (more rarely) cloths were then “baptized” in the dye. Even in ancient times, the colorfastness of the dye was phenomenal, lasting for years without fading—rather, the color grew richer with time.

The Holy Spirit and…You?

Once the process was complete, the dye and the cloth became inseparable; it was (and is) impossible to determine where the dye ended or where the cloth began. This is true when a person is “born again” of water and the Spirit of GOD (John 3:5); this is true when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit of GOD (Acts 1:4,5).

No one would contest the fact that being born-again of the Holy Spirit and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are Sovereign Acts of GOD’s Will and Grace, performed at His Own Discretion; the controversy is whether or not being born-again of the Holy Spirit and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are one and the same Act!

Truth be told, the Theology, Person and Work of GOD The Holy Spirit has always been surrounded by controversy from the very beginning, and there are a number of reasons for this.

Reason One: The Plan of GOD

The Holy Spirit is GOD. The Holy Spirit is the GOD we are exposed to and interact with. Because He is oftentimes so gentle, discrete and wise humans have a tendency to come to the wrong conclusions about Him and (sadly) dismiss both Him and His Counsel out of hand. There are periods of entire centuries during which it seemed as though the Holy Spirit was doing nothing (like the 400 years between the Prophet Malachi and the Prophet John the Baptist). I say “seemed” because the Lord Jesus told the Jews “My Father is working until now, and I am working” (John 5:17). Beware if you find yourself in a situation that GOD appears to be absent from! The GODHEAD is never in a position that forces Them to only “react” to things Their creatures do. They could’ve continued on harmoniously from one age to the next without creating anything or anyone.

However, by the very act of creation The GODHEAD revealed that They had a Plan; a Plan that would result in Their Glory and, if you’ve received any Divine Favor at all, your good. The Plan Itself is so huge the part your little lifetime plays in It is, without Divine Revelation, mysterious and enigmatic.

In the Holy Bible GOD has laid out the Plan, informing anyone taking the time to read the Bible exactly how this Age is going to end. This was done two thousand years ago, with a standing challenge for anyone daring enough to either change the Ending of our Age or stop it from happening.

Reason Two: The Blindness of Sinners

I can’t say this any better than Christ did, so I’ll just quote Him:

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, `You must be born again.` The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”

It is true that, due to existing as spirits with celestial bodies, demons know and experience many things we humans do not. But like us in our fallen state, demons are disconnected from GOD and therefore are incapable of tracking GOD’s Will, Purpose and Movement. If you can’t spy on your enemy or track their movements or discern their plan and purpose, your cause is doomed to failure.

Sad to say, there are many humans going to the Lake of Fire…not because they don’t know that their cause is lost, but because they concluded that they have more in common with the Devil than they do with GOD.

And they’re right…we are all as a species more like Satan than Jesus—unless GOD The Holy Spirit blows on us! Once that happens, you may come kicking and screaming, but you’re coming to The Cross of Christ where the Law of Sin and Death at work in your flesh will be once and for all cast into oblivion forever.

There is another group of people that only believe they are doomed to the Lake of Fire because, in their eyes, their crimes against Heaven, their fellow sinners and themselves are far too heinous and wicked to be forgiven. Perhaps, dear Reader, you are one of those people. If you are, allow the truth to comfort you: there is only One Unforgiveable Sin; and if you had committed it, you would not be reading this book. There is nothing you’ve done—no matter how evil and wicked—that the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot wash from your soul, making you as pure as Christ Himself is!

Reason Three: The Blindness of Saints

GOD shares a lot with His children…a whole lot more than He can or does with those that are not His children. Nevertheless, there are many things He does not share with the saints, partly due to the matter of timing.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth, for He will not speak on His Own Authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.” – Jesus Christ, John 16:12,13

Now think for a moment. What do you suppose Jesus meant by “all the Truth?” He’s referring to all the Truth about Himself…all the Truth about The GODHEAD! How much Truth about GOD do you think exists? There is no end to GOD, nor to His Truth. A million lifetimes would not be enough to learn everything about GOD.

The Holy Spirit gives you only what you need to get to where you need to be; and sometimes a little bit more, just to keep you humble.

New Birth, Holy Spirit Baptism & the Resurrection

I haven’t forgotten the question I posed earlier: is the New Birth and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit one and the same Act of GOD? To answer that question accurately, I must introduce a third (and arguably the most important) transformation: The Resurrection of the Saints.

The New Birth, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Resurrection of the Saints all have much in common. All three are miraculous Acts of GOD that transform the doomed mortal sinner into an immortal saint with a future barely describable in human language.

Yet upon closer scrutiny, one will find important differences among the Three.

Born-Again of Water and the Spirit

The first difference that comes to mind is the overt evidence. When a person is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, they usually know that something Divine has happened, but there’s no guarantee anyone else will. The newly-born believer may (or may not) feel something (a new level of joy, peace or love), or notice the Divine Presence in contrast to the characteristic emptiness or loneliness that most people experience.

It is important—yeah, critical—for the born-again believer to find someone to disciple them; someone they can go to day or night with questions…someone with whom they can study the Bible on a regular basis…someone who can teach them to pray and to whom they can be held accountable. The ideal church will supply these needs through church services, online and offline study materials, small groups and pastorally-vetted mentors who value the believer’s spiritual growth as much as Christ Himself does.

Holy Spirit Baptism

Based on the Biblical record (and personal experience) Being Baptized in the Holy Spirit is one or more orders of magnitude more “obvious” both to the initiate as well as those who know the initiate. The initiate will not only sense the Divine Presence, but will feel the Weight and Strength of the Holy Spirit as the Third Member of The GODHEAD sovereignly takes hold of the initiate’s entire being. The initiate’s fallen nature is “put to sleep,” and they may experience a much higher level of awareness and understanding as though their hitherto blind spiritual eyes are suddenly opened. The initiate sees as GOD sees and feels as GOD feels. The initiate may also experience an overwhelming, emotional self-loathing, having realized that GOD is the Good Guy Who has treated their selfish, rebellious stupidity far more mercifully than is reasonable or deserving. Out of the initiate’s belly may flow—in their native tongue or a foreign tongue—rivers of worship, praise and thanksgiving.

Then again, it may be that none of the above happens. The initiate’s physical body may simply collapse under the Power and Weight of GOD’s Will, Love and Glory…unable to (and having no desire to) move. A child of GOD could remain in such a condition as long as forty days or more without food or water, and at the end having suffered no negative physiological consequences whatsoever. It is often the case that, when self-control is returned to the initiate, he or she despairs over the prospect of returning to the daily routine the earthly life demands.

The Resurrection

The Resurrection of the Saints will not be restricted to any particular church, denomination, region, country or continent. Everyone written in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE from Adam and Eve and on through the halls of history and every nation, tribe tongue and people—living or dead—will be transformed into beings with the Spirit, Mind and Body of Christ (that is to say, spirits, minds and bodies like His).

I’ve experienced the Resurrection and am anxious to share the encounter with you; but first, my favorite Passage of Scripture on the Advent:

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [dead], that you sorrow not as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose [physically] again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the Coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep.

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a Shout, with the Voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

“Wherefore comfort one another with these words!” – The Apostle Paul, 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

Before or After the Great Tribulation

There are two schools of thought which debate over the Day GOD The Son will return to the Earth and reclaim from the dead those that are His own.

The first school believes Christ will return before the Great Tribulation (a period when all the armies of Satan will be released on humanity at an unprecedented level, coinciding with the arrival of the Antichrist) to rescue His Church, leaving the descendants of Israel to discover under the Antichrist’s oppressive rule that Jesus is their Messiah after all.

The second school places Christ’s Return at the end of the Great Tribulation to rescue both His Church and His people Israel.

In Secret or in Public

The second debate over Christ’s Return is whether it will be invisible to the world and visible only to the Church or gloriously visible to both the Church Christ came to resurrect and the world left behind to face the wrath of the Dragon Satan.

Most of those who believe in a “pre-tribulation” rapture (being “caught away” by Christ) also believe in a secret rapture (invisible to the world), while most “post-tribulation” believers believe in a very public rapture.

My own position has slowly evolved over the decades; starting from a firm conviction of a post-tribulation rapture, my research has led me slowly over to a scenario that requires a special dispensation for the Nation of Israel to which GOD made so many promises that cannot be fulfilled within the context of the Christian dispensation.

Of course, a pre-tribulation rapture creates problems as well as solves problems; the pre-tribulation rapture requires three resurrections whereas the Bible only names two: the First Resurrection of the Righteous (Revelation 20:4-6) and the Second Resurrection of the Damned (Revelation 20:11-15).

The First Resurrection

Public or secret…visible or invisible…if you partake in the First Resurrection (which you definitely want to do), it will go something like this…

…you feel a Light from Heaven shining on you; the Light that has no physical source. It’s a Light with your name on It, as though you had all of Its Attention (yet you’re only one of billions of dead and living souls illuminated by the Same Eternal Light).

The Light is gentle and comforting, growing brighter and stronger. It was shining upon you…now It’s shining through you, illuminating everything that is in you: whether pure or corrupt…whether weak or strong.

The gentle stream of Light becomes a flowing river, then a sweeping flood, then a roaring torrent…filling your being with unimaginable Power and igniting every particle of your spirit, soul and body. Before you realize it, the Light has become a part of you and you have become a part of it, for this is a Light that will abide with you for ever and ever and ever and ever.

The intensity and sheer power reaches the point at which one would imagine themselves to be at the center of the Sun; and the Light is no longer a Thing, but a Person…the Person…the Tri-Person (Colossians 2:9). It’s GOD The Word…GOD The Son and it’s your Jesus. He is not just with you, but all around you; you are inside of Him and He has engulfed you in His Immense Being. You are united to Him and He to you…for All Eternity. For the first time you see Him as He truly is: without darkness of any kind…no neurosis, no paranoia, no narcissism, no angst, no resentment, no grudge, no ulterior motive, no greed, no fear, no cowardliness, no arrogance, no twisted agenda…He is Pure as only GOD can be; and now He has become your Purifier!

His Inner Being is open to you, and you perceive the stark contrast between His Eternal Perfection and your own corruption. Your wounds, your defects, and your lack: all become glaringly obvious in the Glorious Illumination of Eternal Deity.

Then a wondrous and unimaginable Event takes place: from His Own Mighty, Matchless Being He surrenders one “organ” after another, replacing everything in your being with its peer in His Own. When He is done, He is still whole as though He lost nothing…yet now you are just as whole as He is!

In my own vision The Divine Light withdrew, and I became the same old sinner I was before (for the most part). But when you are transfigured in the coming Resurrection of the saints, the Light will never withdraw, you will never again be outside of Christ and the Glory pervading you will never fade, but only grow brighter with the passing of the eons!

“The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the Temple of My God. Never shall he go out of It, and I will write on him the Name of My God, and the Name of the City of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down from My God out of Heaven, and My Own New Name.” – Jesus Christ, Revelation 3:12

# PART THREE:

## THE LIFE OF GOD

“Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – The Apostle Paul, Romans 8:35-39

# Chapter 11:

## The Reason You Exist

An Apology

I have a confession to make. Everyone has their preconceived ideas about religion and Christianity as a religion (which it isn’t). In this book I’ve gone to great lengths to attempt to circumnavigate your preconceived ideas about the Gospel. One of those lengths was to give Chapter Four a misleading title; the title of Chapter Four should’ve been “The Cross” but if I had given it that title, you may have never grasped the things I communicated to you in that chapter.

In this chapter I want to be a little more honest: this chapter should be titled “Prayer” and I’m going to give you more credit as an intelligent, sensible individual since you’ve made it this far. All I ask is that you keep an open mind, and give serious consideration to what I’ve already written—especially the Fourteen Junctions I’ve introduced in Chapters Two through Eight, which I’m going to add to in this and future chapters.

I apologize for underestimating you and I thank you for continuing with me!

The Most Generous One

In the denomination I was born and raised in, we had a song that would often be played during the offering. The lyrics are as follows:

“You can't beat God giving,  
No matter how hard you try

And just as sure as you are living  
And the Lord is in Heaven on High

The more you give the more He gives to you  
But keep on giving because it’s really true that

You can't beat God giving,  
No matter how you try” – Doris Akers, 1957

There’s a saying: “Everyone has their price.” We’ve all heard it, and most of us believe it. So…what do you give to the One Who not only has everything, but made everything?

You don’t give…you receive. You don’t bargain…you have nothing to offer. You can’t manipulate the Prime Manipulator…you can’t affect the Original Cause—unless He chooses to be affected.

The best you can do is be honest and open, which is far more challenging for sinners than you realize. The human soul consists of a very complex structure of lies, falsities and half-truths, deceptions and trap doors erected to provide protection for the fragile ego that lies within. The bad news is that these “protections” not only block the delicate ego from harm, but from help as well. One of the positive side effects of the Gospel is that you learn that GOD is not your enemy; that He doesn’t hate you and that He’s not mad at you. On the contrary, He’s created a Path you can take back to Him without being consumed by His Glory, Holiness and Wrath against sin…and that Path is Jesus.

The hatred that you feel directed towards you is not from GOD, but from the Devil…and from yourself. The Devil hates you because GOD loves you; you hate yourself because you have failed to live up to your own idea of right and wrong, and that failure has had negative consequences on both you and the people you love.

GOD knows you: every selfish thought, every murderous and hateful intent, every narcissistic desire and ambition…and He loves you anyway. Approaching GOD the way a criminal approaches a judge is a gross and unnecessary error. Rather, if you stay with Him and trust Him, He will give you Himself and all that He owns.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His Love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His Blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the Wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His Life.” - The Apostle Paul, Romans 5:6-10

“He who did not spare His Own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” The Apostle Paul, Romans 8:32

One of the toughest lessons you’re ever going to learn is that GOD is generous!

JUNCTION FIFTEEN: GOD IS GENEROUS! He is generous to angel and demon…saint and sinner. He is not only more generous than anyone else, He was generous before anyone else! Look at the size of your planet, your solar system, your galaxy, your local group of galaxies—your universe! Look at the size of your family, your clan, your tribe, your nation! For the Love of GOD, my Friend…YOU EXIST!!! Forever dismiss from your mind the idea that GOD is stingy…YOU are stingy; GOD is immeasurably magnanimous!

When you come to GOD in prayer, you are coming to the ALL-CREATING, ALL-GIVING, GENEROUS GOD… never, ever forget!

The other tough lesson to learn is that GOD is proactive. He doesn’t wait till you’ve groveled before He accepts you (like many of your so-called family and friends); everything necessary to save your soul was done by GOD before you even knew He existed!

Look at the first passage from Romans Chapter Five; in your opinion, when does the moment of reconciliation takes place? When you pray the sinner’s prayer? When you’re confirmed? When you’re baptized (in water or in the Holy Spirit)?

According to Romans 5:10 the moment of reconciliation came when Jesus died and the moment of salvation came when Jesus rose (physically) from the dead! All you’re doing with your confession of Faith and baptism is catching up with what GOD has already done!

The Parent-Child Relationship

It was GOD Who came up with the Parent-Child metaphor to describe His relationship with the self-aware (sentient) beings He created throughout His vast universe.

With the Advent of sin, however it was inevitable that the pure and beautiful Parent-Child metaphor would be marred among those of us who are fallen. Under the guilty conscience that sin affords us, we can only see GOD as Judge and Executioner.

The Parent-Child ideal was so important and precious to the GODHEAD, however, that They changed The Relationship between Themselves to ensure that there would always be a perfect and pure example set before His Children. GOD The Word, absolutely equal to GOD The Father in every respect, humbled Himself to become GOD The Son. Going unimaginably and frighteningly further, He humiliated Himself to become a human, identifying Himself with the fallen race that had broken His Heart. Finally, in a self-sacrificial Act that caused the angels to shut their mouths in horror, GOD The Man allowed evil rebels to torture and murder Himself; all this in a wonderous attempt to convey a single message: “I still love you.”

What I hope to do in this chapter is to help you, dear Reader, understand what it is to be a child of GOD, and how that role is different from simply being the child of another human sinner. With that understanding, your idea of Prayer will change dramatically…as will your entire life.

The Incorruptible Dad

Can you remember the day you realized that your parent(s) weren’t perfect…that they weren’t gods? I do. It’s one of the “rights of passage” common to the entire human race. It’s the moment when the walls of the Disney-like magic kingdom we enjoyed as children crumble and we begin to perceive the system behind the fairy-tale sets that have protected us up to that point: the gaffers, the fake lights, the makeup artists, script writers, producers…and somewhere in the darkness the director sitting in his chair saying “again…this time with FEELING.” If your parent(s) were caring (and honest) enough to prepare you, you walk through this door of awareness into a new world of friendship and maturity. If, however, your parent(s) used your naivety to their advantage and never intended for you to learn their terrible secret, well…the consequences can rob you of your faith and hope and take you down a dark path few recover from.

When you receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you are adopted into The Family of The GODHEAD, and GOD The Father becomes your adopted Father and bestows on you the same rights and privileges He gives to His Only-Begotten Son Jesus (including the Love that exists between The Members of the GODHEAD…otherwise known as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit)!

Now, here’s the rub: you can’t have two fathers. You will have to choose once and for all whose son you’re going to be: your natural father (and his fallen nature) or your Heavenly Father (and His Matchless, Perfect Nature). While you’re expected to honor your natural father (to a certain extent and in spite of his flaws), when the moment comes in which you cannot honor both (and believe me, that moment will confront you over and over again), you must decide to please your Heavenly Father, just as His Only-Begotten Son Jesus does.

The more decisions you make that favor your Heavenly Father, the more like your Heavenly Father you become…the more perfect you become.

(NOTE: I know and understand that “perfect” doesn’t mean the same to everyone; so when I say “perfect” I’m referring to the description given in the Bible [1st Corinthians 13]. This passage is a excellent description of what GOD is really like…WOW!)

GOD’s Perfection is what distinguishes Him from everyone else (whether good or evil). His good children are just as good as He is because they borrow their goodness from Him and glorify and worship Him for the Gift of Divine Goodness; His evil children fall ever deeper with time into greater darkness and evil because they declared themselves to be their own source of goodness, robbing GOD of the glory and honor that is His alone. The goodness of the evil children eventually ceases, and they go insane…and must eventually be punished and destroyed.

Unlike our human parent(s), our Heavenly Father is incorruptible: He cannot be deceived, fooled, led astray, nor tempted; neither can He EVER lie to Himself nor anyone else. Most importantly, He cannot sin and He cannot fail: GOD our Father is TRUTH…completely free of flaw, hypocrisy or weakness of any kind. That is why GOD alone is worthy of worship, unfaltering faith and self-sacrificial obedience; because, when it comes right down to the bottom line, He has sacrificed Himself to ensure that His Perfection and Holiness will be forever available to His beloved children…even His beloved fallen human children.

This also means that, no matter how many trillions of years you continue as GOD’s child, you’ll NEVER catch up to His Level of Glory and Perfection—nor will you ever have to! He gives you as much of His Glory as you can handle without falling into the Lie of Pride (described above). And no matter how much of His Glory you bear, there will ALWAYS be more…so much more Glory beyond the science of measurement itself!

The Dad Who Can’t Die

I was around eleven years of age when my mom took me to visit my father on his deathbed. My father had succumbed to a disease that made his liver hard as rock. I was the youngest of four, and my mother’s favorite. I didn’t get to see my father that much between the ages of five and eleven; when I did go see him in his final days he looked just like the man in the picture I’d seen…but other than that the man was a stranger to me. He was as emotional as a man could be and was obviously glad to see me, but in my heart there was no emotional attachment at all.

It was different when my mother died. I drove forty miles after work each day to go to the hospital to see and speak with her. I don’t believe that twenty-four hours pass in my life now without thinking about her, and she’s in my night dreams more than anyone else (besides myself, of course).

Good human parent(s) provide benefits to their children’s souls that can’t be measured; and when death separates the parent from the child, there is immense grief that honors the parent’s memory. Even when the parent didn’t live up to their obligations or were abusive, upon that parent’s death--if the child is honest--there is the acknowledgement of a connection…even though it may be attached to a negative and abusive past.

In the ideal situation (and before death separates the parent from the child) the parent has educated the child to understand that when the child becomes an adult, the human parent’s responsibilities are transferred to GOD. Better yet, while still under the parent’s authority, the child has seen the parent’s relationship to GOD as a real, vibrant and effective lifestyle that abides at the center of all of the parent’s affairs. As the child matures, parent and child are such no longer, but become friends…siblings under the Fatherhood of the Father of Christ.

It is tragic that so many believers do not, however, come out of true Christian homes, but out of homes that are only religious—or worse: atheistic or agnostic ones. These believers must go through the trauma of stripping themselves of their “adult” and “independent” lifestyles and relearn what it is to be a child under GOD’s Fatherhood (Matthew 18:1-6).

In our transition from world citizenship to Kingdom citizenship, we discover a Father from Whom not even death itself can separate us. It is no longer necessary for us to go to school, work or even places of recreation without our Heavenly Father at our side: a constant, faithful Provider and Protector to Whom we can turn at any moment of the day for guidance, wisdom and comfort.

At the youngest of ages, earthly children must suffer the trauma of “necessary” separation when their parents have to go to work or school, leaving their dear offspring in the hands of strangers. Not so with the Heavenly children: their Father’s Presence is real, palpable and comforting; strengthening them in the most intimidating of environments and giving them courage even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Those who are granted immunity to the Lake of Fire have a Parent Who doesn’t not weaken with age or become a financial burden due to the need for special medical care. The Heavenly Father’s Mind, endowed with a Divine Intellect far beyond that of any earthly genius (so-called), cannot wither under the onslaught of dementia or Alzheimer’s nor lose the eternal grasp of Its boundless Memory or powers of recall.

The GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ does not die; and though we do die, we do not experience death as those who are not Lake of Fire-immune. The child of GOD dies as Christ Himself died: without fear, vengeance, bitterness or loneliness and in the Bosom of Eternal, Unconditional Love and Comfort…leaving behind a world of grief and distraction to join with the Eternal Fellowship of the GODHEAD…for ever.

The Dad Who is Never Angry

Even the best of parents can become frustrated with the fallen behavior of their offspring. In the best of cases, the parent never stops loving their child when the child goes wayward; rather it’s the parent’s love for the child that fuels the need for tutelage, correction, chastisement or even punishment.

The Holy Bible paints for us the picture of a GOD who is emotionally passionate. You will not find Star Trek’s Vulcan/Spock aversion to emotion sitting on the Throne of Eternity. Scripture speaks of GOD as singing and dancing (Zephaniah 3:17); Holy Scripture also refers to GOD as the Source of all Joy (Galatians 5:22) and pleasure (Job 36:11; Psalms 16:11).

GOD loves Truth, Holiness, Righteousness, Justice and Peace with a passion that would destroy a normal human body. It follows logically therefore, that One Who is so emotionally committed to these virtues would hate their opposites (deception, sin, unrighteousness, injustice and violence) with an equal amount of passion (what the Bible calls “Wrath”). You cannot love Life and not hate Death.

I pray that these true words would once and for all free minds from the ridiculous “new age” picture of a fictitious God Who loves everything and hates nothing; no one you or I have encountered is truly like that (not even the Devil)…and neither is the One True GOD Who created all.

The Message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that, despite our fallen nature, GOD loved us so much: He figured out a way to turn His Wrath away from us while at the same time satisfying His love of and demand for Justice. This He accomplished by PUNISHING HIMSELF FOR OUR SIN…

…now that is a True Father and a Loving Parent.

It is said that GOD loves the sinner yet hates the sinner’s sin; this saying is true. We humans have a difficult time loving people that hate us or repaying the evil that is done to us with good, as Christ commanded us (Matthew 5:43-48).

The problem with human parents is that they must patiently bear with the shortcomings of their offspring while at the same time wrestle with their own fallen nature. By contrast, Our Heavenly Father has no sin of His Own; therefore His Love is pure and unconflicted.

As born-again children of GOD we are angrier with ourselves than He is with us. That anger against ourselves is fueled by our failed attempts to please GOD with our pitiable and pathetic righteousness. We attempt to please GOD with our own righteousness because our church pastors and teachers—not understanding the Gospel themselves—instructed us to use our own righteousness because that’s what they were taught by their pastors and teachers. And so, we are cursed with a religious church culture that breeds failure, doubt, guilt and self-directed anger.

I call to you pastors and teachers (and even evangelists) who believe in Jesus to carefully consider the Faith that you profess…

…If Jesus died in your place to atone for your sins and GOD The Father accepted Jesus’ Sacrifice and YOU ALSO accepted Jesus Sacrifice, why would you still feel guilty and in need of self-punishment?

Why would GOD The Father punish both Jesus AND you for the same sins?

JUNCTION SIXTEEN: It is ILLEGAL for GOD The Father to punish both you and Jesus for the same sin(s)!

Because of what Christ accomplished on The Cross, there is no reason for GOD to be angry with us anymore!

“Brother Mitchell, I appreciate the truth that GOD is no longer angry with me; but I’m frustrated (angry with myself) that I can’t stop sinning!”

First of all, let me say that your struggle with sin is a good thing and a sign of the Grace of GOD upon your heart (and the conviction that comes with that Grace); sinners don’t struggle with sin…only religious people and saints do.

That being said, it’s important for you to understand that eventually saints DO get past the point of failure, while religious people never do. Rather, the religious either hide the sin (like the Roman Catholic church did with its pedophile priests), use the sin (like the Roman Catholic Church does with the confessional) or compromise with the sin (like the Episcopal Church did in legitimizing gay pastors).

What’s the alternative?

The Righteousness of Christ.

You see, dear Saint: while the Death of Jesus atoned for all of your sins (past, present and future), the Righteousness of Jesus covers your present failure AND EVENTUALLY DESTROYS THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH that resides in your body!!! When you LEAN on Christ’s Righteousness in the same way that you depend upon His Atonement, that Righteousness CHANGES YOU…seeping into your being through His connection to your spirit and grants you His distaste for sin!

On the other hand, the Gospel clarifies the meaning of true forgiveness. Forgiveness is not at all making any kind of excuse for the crimes of sin. Neither is forgiveness a compromise with sin with the goal of “letting it go” to find personal peace. Forgiveness is accepting Jesus’ Sacrifice as an atonement for the crimes committed against you. This is what GOD The Father does with your sins, and you can do the same with the sins committed against you.

With all of this in mind, we can enter into a close, personal relationship with a Father Who will never punish us out of spite or inconvenience; we can place all our trust in a Father Who not only understands and accepts our weaknesses and failures, but has the means to make us better people…so much better than we could’ve ever imagined ourselves to be!

The Dad Who Will Never Leave

GOD is neither intimidated nor frustrated by the addictions and bondages we are entangled with. There is a far greater danger of you and I abandoning GOD out of pride and shame than of Him ever abandoning us. Know this, however: you are saved because GOD chose and pursued you…not the other way around (John 15:16).

And when you grow weary of religion and playing church and decide to go back into the world, be sure to look over your shoulder: for GOD will come looking for you—not to resume the game of church, but to have a real relationship with you in which He provides EVERYTHING you need—including a new heart that loves what He loves and hates what He hates.

Before you can start winning your battle with sin, you have to allow Jesus to take responsibility for both your failure and your future. Christ’s command to “deny” yourself (Matthew 16:24) encompasses far more than “not doing bad things.” It really means to stop depending on your own will and strength to do and be good, and to learn how to tap into His Strength (Exodus 15:2; Isaiah 27:5).

When Jesus says to take up your cross (Matthew 16:24), He’s not asking for asceticism (whipping your back or starving/killing yourself), but for us to identify ourselves with His Death…a Death that destroyed the power that sin had over the human body (Romans 6:7). When Jesus rose physically from the dead, the sins of humanity that He had dragged into the grave with Himself three days earlier was nowhere to be found; the Law of Sin and Death itself had been destroyed…Christ could no longer be tempted, and He can now promise the same victory to any sinner who places their faith in Him.

Most of us understand, from different perspectives, what it means to be abandoned, either by a lover, a parent, a friend, a business associate or an employer. These are all negative experiences; nevertheless they all pale in comparison to being abandoned by GOD, which is why I believe GOD abandons people so rarely.

Stay with me, now…

The Bible is clear that, at some moment during every human’s life, GOD calls that person to repentance and faith in Christ (Acts 17:30,31). In addition, from testimonies received from those who subscribe to non-Christian religions, GOD will even go so far as to reach out to people of other faiths in their dreams with the Gospel of Jesus in environments where there is no Christian available to share their faith. This means, dear Reader, that at some point in your life GOD has reached out to you; if not, then consider this book to be that Divine Act.

I don’t doubt that, to be just, GOD will call to you more than once if you don’t provide a positive response the first time. But it’s critical that you understand: at some point GOD will take your last rejection as your final rejection…just the thought sends chills down my spine! If it be that GOD decides to honor your rejection of His Grace once and for all, then know that you’re going to the Lake of Fire: an experience of such terror and horror that it is literally impossible to describe unless you’ve been there.

This is a solemn warning—not to those who have GOD The Holy Spirit inside them, but to those (religious, spiritist, agnostic, atheist) who don’t.

Which brings me to those of you who think they are Christians, but do not have the Holy Spirit inside: it is critical for you to understand that you are NOT accepted by GOD because you never sin, or because you always try to do your best or because you are self-deprecating to the point of physical injury and psychological neurosis. NOTHING YOU DO MATTERS…IT IS WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART AND WHO YOU RELY ON…

…and right now, you’re relying on yourself, not GOD. The only Righteousness GOD accepts is His Own in the Person of His Only-Begotten Son The Lord Jesus Christ!!!

The line between self-faith and Christ-Faith is very thin, and your lower nature (not to mention your society and the Kingdom of Satan) is constantly seducing you towards self-faith. Only those who are willing to step off the cliff of self-reliance on to the Wind of GOD’s Unconditional Love will come to the understanding of Jesus’ Promise:

“I will NEVER leave you nor forsake you.” – Jesus Christ, Hebrews 13:5

The Dad You Will Never Outgrow

As one who has made his career in the field of information technology (I.T.) for thirty years, I am familiar with the fundamentals of computer data storage and retrieval (databases). There is a common proverb among I.T. professionals: “Databases never get smaller…they only get bigger.”

One of the positive features of databases is the ability to search the entirety of their contents very quickly…far faster than any human could if given the same data on paper. And no matter how large the database gets or how long a search takes, at some point in time the search will have traversed the whole database, and will return to the user with the requested data or, if the requested data didn’t exist in the database, the search will return nothing.

My point is that even the largest databases are of finite size; if they weren’t the Earth itself would not be large enough to contain the data storage hardware necessary to store all of their data.

The Apostle Paul, under the Anointing of the Holy Spirit, make a very exciting statement about Jesus Christ:

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this Grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable Riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ…” The Apostle Paul, Ephesians 3:8,9

This passage is packed with info; but I wish to turn your attention to the phrase “the unsearchable Riches of Christ.” The idea conveyed is that if the Riches of Christ were a database, a search of that database would never stop because the database itself doesn’t have an “end of file!”

You will never be able to say with any degree of honesty “Jesus Christ? Oh yeah…I’ve got Him all figured out!” Whether it’s Christ’s Humanity, Deity or the connection between the two…an exploration of Jesus Christ will always leave you with your face to the ground in worship and your mind blown…

…which brings me to another important fact: The Holy Bible does NOT tell us all there is to know about GOD!

JUNCTION SEVENTEEN: The Holy Bible does NOT tell us all there is to know about GOD! The Bible was inspired by GOD for a very specific purpose: to give the saint everything needful to be saved from the Lake of Fire—and therefore from the power of sin.

For example: the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) barely scratch the surface of all the things Jesus accomplished just during His earthly ministry (John 21:25)!

For another example just look at the local area of your universe (Earth); When GOD rested from creating the Earth there were a mind-blowing five billion species of life in existence on our planet. And now, even with 99% of the five billion extinct, we still have 10 million species still alive…

…my point: you will NEVER get bored walking with GOD, either in this life or the next! Furthermore, you will never become as wise as or as intelligent or as beautiful or as powerful as GOD, even as you grow through all Eternity in wisdom, intelligence, beauty and power.

“And I heard every creature in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To Him Who sits on the Throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!’” – The Apostle John, Revelation 5:13

Amen, and Amen.

Prayer Illumined by Truth

Consider now, dear Reader, the impact such a Parent as I have described above would have on your life…public or private.

Would you still need those pills (to help you sleep…to reduce your stress or blood pressure…to help you cope)?

Would you be married to | live with | hookup with | date the same kind of people?

Would you spend hours watching the same kind of tv shows | movies or reading the same kind of literature?

Would you still be saddled with the same emptiness that your religion | esotericism | spiritism | humanitarianism | hedonism (or any other -ism) promised to fill?

Would your job still seem so pointless and boring?

Would your church experience still seem so pointless and boring?

Hmmmmm…

Prayer starts with a simple “thank You,” but over time grows to an entire lifestyle completely bathed and saturated in the Presence of our Eternal Parent. Blessed is the soul that reaches that realization in this life and doesn’t allow themselves to be distracted by a society the sole purpose of which is to keep them out of the Presence of GOD for as long as possible.

With that realization comes our next revelatory junction:

JUNCTION EIGHTEEN: The life you were born into as a human is ABSOLUTELY INCOMPATIBLE with the Life you were born-again into as a Child of GOD.

Being predestined by GOD before the universe itself existed to be a member of the Family of The GODHEAD (Ephesians 1:3-6), you will inevitably have to abandon your Earthly life for you Heavenly Life and Destiny. More than this, you will come to disdain and despise your Earthly life and cling to the Divine Peace, Joy and Rest you’ve discovered in the Presence of your Heavenly Parent.

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters…yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.” – Jesus Christ, Luke 14:26

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for Eternal Life.” – Jesus Christ, John 12:25

Does it surprise you that, in stark contrast to a society that advocates self-love as the means to happiness, Jesus would point to self-hate as the starting point of the Path to Immortality and immunity to the Lake of Fire? It’s a shock to many religious folk who believe themselves to be Christians, but are not.

When truly confronted by the Unconditional Love of our Heavenly Parent, we not only fall in love with Him, but fall out of love with ourselves when we realize the pain and grief we caused Him at The Cross of Jesus Christ!

The Revelation of The Cross is that GOD loved us so deeply that He spared neither Himself nor us the agony necessary to provide us a complete delivery from the power, penalty and—most important—the love of sin.

JUNCTION NINETEEN: The Power of the Gospel is The Cross of Jesus Christ. The “magic” of The Cross is that GOD loved us so unconditionally and so deeply that He spared neither Himself nor us the pain and agony necessary to provide us a complete delivery from the power, penalty and—most important—our love of and need for sin.

This revelation revolutionizes our view of GOD, and therefore our view of prayer as well. We identify with GOD’s Pain…and find that importance of our own pain fades into oblivion. GOD cared enough about me to SUFFER being clothed with my sin and shame as well as the terrible Penalty that comes with them. Jesus dragged my wickedness and guilt into Death through His Own Sinless Body…destroying That Body and all of the horrible things I am and do that were attached to It!

It is the pain and horror of judgment and death that joins Christ to me…and I to Him. There is no greater level of intimacy…not even in sex. I am Jesus’ sin, and Jesus is my Righteousness (2nd Corinthians 5:13-21)!!!

# Chapter 12:

## The Weirdest Family Ever!

The Impossible Miracle

By its own definition, the word “miracle” refers to an historical event that defies both the laws of physics and reason. Discounting the existence of miracles causes all kinds of problems for the sinner facing the Lake of Fire, as you might imagine.

Therefore, to receive immunity to the Lake of Fire, one must believe in The First Miracle: The GODHEAD Themselves! To accept the Biblical idea of a Family of Beings that have neither beginning nor end of Existence, possessing Eternal Power, Eternal Knowledge as well as an Unconditional Love of Virtue along with an equally Unconditional Hatred (Wrath) of Evil would be tantamount to being saved from that selfsame Wrath.

But faith in the Existence of GOD as described in the Bible, while a good and necessary start, is not enough to be saved; your faith must also include an even more impossible miracle…

…why would The Holy GOD have ANYTHING to do with evil sinners (you and I)???? What common ground would The One have with the other? If the Bible is to be believed, the reasonable answer would be “absolutely nothing!” While on the one hand Deity’s only logical Act would be to judge and destroy us evil sinners, on the other hand we evil sinners, having no desire for such a GOD to even exist, have made ourselves into gods at the True GOD’s expense.

And yet, in the Twelfth Chapter of the Book of Genesis, The Untouchable, Unapproachable GOD reaches down to approach and touch a man of wealth living a comfortable life in a large metropolis and calls that man (Abram) to the life of a Wanderer (the word “Hebrew” means “wanderer”) in the wilderness and promises him the impossible: a unbreakable relationship between GOD, himself and his descendants… forever!

This same promise is made to you through your faith in Jesus Christ (2nd Corinthians 1:19,20); and I shall endeavor to, in the rest of this tiny volume, to touch upon the unsearchable implications of what that Promise, fulfilled, means to you.

E Pluribus Unum!

You are a single living being; no one would contest that, least of all myself.

Yet…

…in a very real sense you are thirty trillion living “beings” (physiological cells) all sharing a common life and consciousness.

As small as a single cell of your body is, each cell is far from simple. Each of your cells is a complex metropolis with no less than nine different kinds of components. Just one of these components, called organelles, have twenty different types! There are no less than two hundred different types of cells in your body; and in the core (nucleus) of each cell is the blueprint for the entire body (DNA), which consist of four amino acids called bases. There are six billion arrangements of these four bases, paired to each other in three billion pairs, packed into twenty-three pairs of chromosomes.

Each cell—in addition to contributing to the structure of your body—performs the same functions an individual human would: taking in nutrients from food (eating), convert those nutrients into energy (growth and maturity), as well as carrying out specialized functions (a job).

Believe it or not, what I’ve presented so far is the simplest description of human physiology I could come up with; the actual facts are far, far, far more complicated. Nevertheless, I painted this word illustration for a reason: there is a real correlation between how you as a soul relate to your body, and how Jesus Christ relates to His People—both here on Earth, in Heaven where GOD’s Throne is, and across the vast cosmos of His Domain.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in One [Holy] Spirit we were all baptized into One Body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of One Spirit.

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.

“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the Body, each one of them, as He chose.

“If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet One Body.

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require.

“But God has so composed the Body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the Body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

“Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of It. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.” – The Apostle Paul, 1st Corinthians 12:12-28.

One Relationship – Many Dimensions

As you may have already deduced, there are multiple dimensions to our relationship with GOD as saints (humans set apart by GOD for His own unique and special Purpose):

He is the Creator; we are His creatures (Colossians 1:16).

He is the Model; we are the statue (Genesis 1:26,27).

He is the Good Shepherd; we are the sheep (John 10:11-16).

He is GOD, we are priests and priestesses (Revelation 1:5,6).

He is Father, we are sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:5).

He is the Head, we are the Body (Colossians 1:18).

He is the Bridegroom, we are the Bride (Ephesians 5:25-27).

If you have the Holy Spirit of Christ (whether of GOD or of Christ, I’m always referring to the Same Holy Spirit) within you—and you must have the Holy Spirit to be saved from the Lake of Fire—then you are part of the Body and Expression of Jesus Christ on Earth, otherwise known as the Church: the pillar and base of the Truth (Christ) on Earth (1st Timothy 3:15).

Bound by Blood

So, we have this weird union between the Impossible GOD and humans so fallen that, for them, relating to the Impossible GOD in any meaningful way is itself quite impossible. How is such a union, therefore, possible?

In ancient times, due to fallen human nature, tribes and nations would fall out of favor with each other and go to war. Often, the winning tribe would annihilate its enemy completely to ensure its own survival. In more rare circumstances, the warring forces would be so equal in strength that one could not best the other; such conflicts could endure for generations…even for centuries.

Wars can be quite expensive, both in human lives, wealth and natural resources.

If the leaders of both combating nations saw reason and negotiated a truce, a covenant would be drawn up to ensure a lasting peace. Central to this covenant would be the marriage of royals from each tribe, consummated in the hope of producing an heir that would not only have the right to rule both tribes, but would in himself (in the best of circumstances) unite the identities of both tribes into one new nation.

This is what GOD did with the human race with one significant difference: there was never a chance fallen humans (or fallen angels, for that matter) were going to win their war against GOD. Even if every being in all of Creation with a free will decided to betray its Creator and become evil and wicked, it would be no different from a single ant attacking the back of a blue whale…

Mercy and Love

…which brings us to another very important truth: GOD is not under ANY obligation to be merciful.

JUNCTION TWENTY: GOD is under no obligation to be merciful to evil. Sinners are evil, and every human is a sinner. By the definitions of the terms “mercy” and “forgiveness,” these virtues can never be owed to the sinner. GOD would’ve been perfectly righteous and just to annihilate Adam and Eve before their offspring could permeate the surface of the Earth with the wretchedness and horror you see today. Even more so: GOD would’ve been just to shut Lucifer down before anyone else was affected.

The Message of the Lake of Fire is that the Day is coming when evil and the affliction it brings will no longer exist. And, true to our fallen nature, we consider the delay of that Day’s arrival to be indicative of the myth that either GOD doesn’t exist, or that He’s so soft He can’t bring Himself to make the tough decision, do the right thing and put all evil (including you and I) out of His Divine Sight once and for all.

Yet GOD has already spoken: “My Spirit will not always strive with Mankind,” (Genesis 6:3). And once GOD speaks, it would be easier to shut down the Sun than to put a stop to the relentless juggernaut of His Word.

So why did GOD bind Himself to us in the Person of His Only-Begotten Son? Was Mercy the reason? Mercy itself has consequences that never occur to the mind of the selfish, self-obsessed sinner. Mercy means Lucifer is allowed to become Satan. Mercy means Satan is allowed to seduce a third of Heaven’s angels, turning them into monsters and damning them to eternal shame. Mercy means allowing Satan to tempt the pure and innocent Adam and his wife Eve. Mercy means thousands of years of death, abuse, rape, torture, starvation, famine, natural and manmade disasters, plague, disease, violence, war, death, the ripping apart of families, the occult, deep spiritual darkness, deception, religion and blindness.

The answer lies in a simple verse in the Bible:

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because GOD IS LOVE.” – The Apostle John, 1st John 4:8.

Love MUST allow the child to choose its path, then walk the path it has chosen…consequences and all.

JUNCTION TWENTY-ONE: Every sentient being is a “free-will” agent and can make decisions (acts of the will) to influence both their destiny and the destiny of those they associate with, but ONLY GOD DETERMINES THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. The Jew who assisted in the weaponization of Zyklon gas for use in World War I had no idea his government would use the same gas to exterminate millions of European Jews in World War II. In the same way, neither you nor I can imagine the far-reaching consequences of the decisions we make today.

Then comes the Day when the child must look at itself and the path it took, and see everything in the Glorious, Blinding Light of Eternal Love. At that point, the child will either judge itself or judge its Creator, and find itself either foundering in the Lake of Fire or standing, clothed with the Glory of GOD, on the Sea of Glass mixed with Fire (Revelation 15:2).

GOD chose Mercy out of love for Lucifer; and He continues to choose Mercy out of love for you.

Mercy, birthed from Eternal Love, is what allows the Transcendent GOD to hold fellowship with the blind worms we humans have become WITH THE INTENT that, through Divine Grace, those little worms will be transformed into gods, having everything holy in common with their Heavenly Father!

On Earth as it is in Heaven

If you live anywhere in Earth’s Western Hemisphere or Europe, you can find a Protestant church. This is even true, though to a lesser extent, on other continents, with the possible exception of Antarctica.

I encourage you to take the time to visit any Protestant church you wish, from any denomination (Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Methodist, Lutheran, Assemblies of God, Foursquare, Seventh-Day Adventist, Church of God in Christ, etc.) or any non-denominational background. No matter which church you visit, there are two things I can guarantee:

1. There will be something in the Bible that church will not agree with and will cunningly work itself around. As long as that “something” doesn’t contradict the identity Scripture gives to the Person of Jesus Christ, it’s usually something relatively minor.

2. There will not be any “perfect” Christians in that church.

As with any dishonest seeker (that is, a person who has difficulty being honest with themselves) you have the option to use these two facts to discredit in your own mind the truths that the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims to you. However, to do so would be a very grave error on your part, and for a single reason only: Absolute Truth and Absolute Perfection do, in fact, exist in the Man Jesus Christ; which proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the Impossible Miracle (GOD) is an historical Fact. Be that as it may that every other man may be a liar, rest assured that GOD is true and beyond all error (Romans 3:4).

JUNCTION TWENTY-TWO: Be it ever so ubiquitous, the existence of imperfection does not prove that Perfection does not exist! Rather, the recognition of imperfection, by the very name with which we label it, is proof that, deep in the human spirit, the truth of Perfection is both extant and, at a very deep level, assumed even by those who dishonestly claim that It doesn’t exist. IF PERFECTION DOES NOT EXIST, NEITHER DOES IMPERFECTION; you can’t logically have one without the other!

Therefore, it would be an error to look at the hypocrisy one finds in a church building and foolishly conclude that the Message of the Church (the Body of Christ) is unviable.

Furthermore, it must be understood that NOT EVERYONE WHO APPEARS TO BE A DEVOUT MEMBER OF A PROTESTANT DENOMINATION IS, IN FACT, GOING TO ESCAPE THE LAKE OF FIRE. Read the Words of Christ Himself, and take them to heart:

“…The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed darnel [a wheat-like weed] among the wheat and went away.

“So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

“And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’

“He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’

“So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

“But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, `Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.`’

Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the Kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.”

“Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom ALL causes of sin and ALL law-breakers, and throw them into the Fiery Furnace [the Lake of Fire]. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear!” -- Jesus Christ, Matthew 13:24-30;36-43

It is noteworthy that nowhere in the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) does there appear to be any confusion in Christ’s Mind as to who are “saved” and who are “damned.” The Eyes of Deity, which cannot be deceived, pierces into the place in us where soul and spirit meet and They read the thoughts and intents of our hearts as if thumbing through the pages of a magazine on a newsstand.

For our part however, Christ expects us to treat everyone as if they were saved. As a principle, we’re not to separate ourselves as believers from those who are still blind to the Truth. Rather, we are to walk before unbelievers in Faith and Integrity, knowing that, at His Discretion, Jesus will draw them to Himself.

We are, however, directed to separate ourselves from those who profess to believe, but whose lifestyles do not reflect the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, nor those whose testimony contradicts the Divine Fundamentals of the Gospel of Christ. The performing of signs and miracles is NOT, according to the Bible proof of Immunity to the Lake of Fire; but rather the humbler virtues of kindness, compassion and empathy Jesus Himself always exhibited.

If you find this Divine Fruit in any of the churches you visit, then rest assured: Christ is among those people, and you can fellowship with those believers in confidence, despite their imperfections (or yours).

# Chapter 13:

## The Weirdest Marriage Ever!

The Transcendence of GOD

What kind of person would it take to create the physical universe that we live in? Forget about spiritual matters like consciousness, self-awareness, love, joy, peace, morality and ethics…what kind of mind would be required just to design the laws of matter, space, time, motion, gravity and thermodynamics, much less the immeasurable power necessary to bring those designs into reality?

I’ve studied astronomy, physics, cosmology and quantum mechanics all my life (not that I understand it all, but I’ve gone to great effort to try to understand), but perhaps you, Dear Reader, have never taken the time to consider the overwhelming awesomeness of the cosmos into which you were born.

Unfortunately, I don’t have the time or space to catch you up, but I encourage you to look up the following title on YouTube, then come back and we’ll continue.

Title: From Earth to Multiverse  
Submitter: online 367  
Published Date: 17-Feb-2017  
Length (minutes): 6:11  
URL: http://youtube.com/watch?v=q1mkjkTqg0Y

To believe that all of this came from nothing by chance is the very definition of clinical insanity.

But perhaps now you can see why all sane beings in the cosmos WORSHIP their Creator, falling on their face before His Eternal GENIUS, INTELLIGENCE, GLORY, POWER AND MIGHT!

“The heavens are Thine, the Earth also is Thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, Thou hast founded them.” -- Psalms 89:11

“For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.” – Psalms 96:5

“Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the Earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy Hands.” – Psalms 102:25

“And ALL the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and ALL their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

“For My Sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, It shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of My Curse, to judgment.” – The Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 34:3-5

“Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:35

The Humility of GOD

The hardest thing for an atheist or agnostic to grasp about GOD is His Existence: the idea that a single Person (or Persons) could be the Architect of All Reality is beyond their imagination. The most difficult thing for a spiritist to grasp about GOD is His Holiness: the spiritist finds it nearly impossible to let go of the delusion that they can create their own morality or be in complete control of their own will and destiny. The most challenging thing for a religious person to grasp about GOD is His Humility (yes…GOD’s Humility): the religious can never accept that the most precious things in life (glory/majesty, wisdom, power and immortality) are gifts, not achievements.

After reading this book, you know more about the One True GOD than most…so I’ll offer you a proposal…

…put yourself in GOD’s Place. Would You have done things the way GOD did them in history (as You understand history)? Would You have allowed Evil to go as far as it has…as far as the Bible says it will yet go? Would You have sacrificed Your Divine Reputation to save the fallen Adam, his wife and descendants; or would You have blotted him out of existence and started all over?

Would You have taken a pile of dirt and clay, formed it into a being that looks exactly like You and given it everything You own? If it betrayed You, would You have handed Yourself over to Evil to be tortured and murdered in order to save it.

Having saved it, would You ever trust it again? Would you MARRY it…give it Your Name, Your Throne? Would you exalt it even above unfallen angels?

All this, and more, GOD has done for the human race in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Why?

“For thus says the One Who is high and lifted up,  
who inhabits Eternity, Whose Name is Holy:

‘I dwell in the High and Holy Place,  
 and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly,  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.” – The Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 57:15

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 5:3-9

“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.

Take My Yoke upon you, and learn from Me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

For My Yoke is easy, and My Burden is light.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:28-30

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.” – Jesus Christ, Matthew 20:25-27

“When He [Jesus] had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, he said to them, ‘Do you understand what I have done to you?

You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” – Jesus Christ, John 13:12-17

What a stark contrast to the leaders we idolize in this dog-eat-dog society we’re forced to function in! What a refreshing difference to the self-actualizing, motivational tripe we feed on in the hope of “getting ahead” in this life! What a contradictory path Christ presents in comparison to the power-hungry chants and dogmas offered to us by the New Age Movement’s so-call “ascended” masters!

Contrary to all the nasty accusations non-believers have cast upon our Savior, the Truth is that GOD IS THE GOOD GUY, SUPER-HERO, SAVIOR, DELIVERE, RESCUER, REDEEMER AND MORAL COMPASS OF THE UNIVERSE. Which makes you and I the villains, the anti-heros, the bad guys, the rebels, the syndicate, the mafia, the triads, and the wicked. If you can grasp this simple fact in your heart, you will change into a different man/woman.

GOD’s Intent is not to humiliate you, but to humble you, FOR GOD HIMSELF IS HUMBLE!!! If GOD can humble you, He can exalt you higher that you could ever imagine; and He SO WANTS TO EXALT YOU!!!

All you have to do is to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ over your life, and trust Him to leads you even through death’s door, into a Glorious Eternity in His Unconditionally Loving Arms.

For the simple truth is that it is GOD Who is running your life even now…for your welfare or for your doom.

# Chapter 14:

## Money

The Last Chapter?

JUNCTION TWENTY-THREE: You do not need money to either survive or thrive in this life or the next.

Chapter Thirteen was supposed to be the last chapter of this book; with a currency as universal, as eternal and as precious as Faith, a chapter on money shouldn’t even be necessary…

…but then I said to myself “A new believer who is not as familiar with the Heavenly Economy as more mature disciples may stumble on the topic of money to the point that such issues may actually be seen as an obstacle to their faith.” I am therefore adding this chapter using the same plain, “hype-free” language I’ve tried to engage in for this entire book.

So…let’s get to it.

The Big Picture

By my calculations, Adam was created around 20,000 years ago. As the antediluvian (before Noah’s Flood) world became seriously populated with households becoming clans and clans becoming tribes and tribes becoming nations, the need became evident for (1) mediums of exchange to trade goods and services, (2) units of measurement to standardize the value of those goods and services, and (3) storehouses for wealth to enable the long-term planning and provisioning of those goods and services.

I have neither the time nor space in this book to review the history of money or currency; it could be argued, therefore, that in the progress of these three functions over time towards the creation of money as a consolidating vehicle, currency in one form or another has always existed.

Even when the Deluge (Noah’s Flood) reduced the human population to a single family, and the whole process of fruitful human multiplication began again, the survivors of the Deluge brought with them the same functions that enable any sizeable society to survive physically and thrive economically…

…so I was wrong, and you DO need at least the functions of money to survive and thrive in the world…right?

The Eternal Currency

Wrong. Money and its functions are themselves a byproduct of a far more ancient and eternal idea: RELATIONSHIP. Though in this world modern governmental, corporate and economic structures produce complex relationships which focus on redirecting vast, incalculable wealth to the few at the cost of the many, RELATIONSHIP itself is defined by values that have little to do with assets and liabilities and more with those Eternal Truths that flow from the Reality of The GODHEAD ITSELF: Faith, Hope, Love, Wisdom and Understanding.

It is the Members of The GODHEAD: Their Oneness and Divine Harmony which forever defines how relationships should function and what values will prevail long after the Earth’s gold, silver and other natural resources have perished under the heat of GOD’s Presence and Power.

“The Law of Your Mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.” – Psalms 119:72

“Blessed is the one who finds Wisdom,  
and the one who gets Understanding,

for the gain from Her is better than gain from silver  
and her profit better than gold.

She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.” – Proverbs 3:13-15

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.” – The Apostle Paul, 1st Timothy 6:9

“That the tested genuineness of your Faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the Revelation of Jesus Christ.” – The Apostle Peter, Peter 1:7

The Voice of Experience

At the time of this writing I am a Black American, 59 years of age and can tell you that, up to January of 2019, I was anything but the sharpest tool in the shed when it came to managing money. I’ve had to start over, with nothing, from scratch, at least a few times before my first marriage at age 29, and then a few of times before and during my second marriage at the age of 54. Today I am earning good money, setting aside a portion of my income for the Work of the Gospel, saving and investing consistently towards retirement and chipping away faithfully at a mountain of debt that will be no more in about eleven years.

The simple truth (without going into detail) is that I should be dead; but I’m not dead because GOD is faithful both to His Purpose for my life and His Mercy and Grace towards me.

I know what it’s like to be unplugged from the economic system for months and years: no income, no bills and no taxes. The only time I went hungry was actually at the beginning of my career when I did have a job, apartment, etc. During the homeless periods, however, I never went a single day hungry…GOD took care of me, and in return I promised not to sin against Him—or anyone else.

Faith in GOD is a far older, far wiser and far more RELIABLE currency than anything the Devil or this world system can offer you or that you, by wit or craft, can drum up for yourself.

Time to Wake Up

GOD “has it in” for this world’s system, therefore eventually its economics will collapse, and people will literally sell their souls to the Devil to stay alive; it’s all there in the Holy Bible! So I will end this chapter with some sound advice for all children of GOD in regards to their attitude towards and handling of GOD’s money and resources of which they are the stewards.

First: Stewardship Equals Accountability

As heirs of GOD and joint-heirs with Christ, we own everything GOD owns (Romans 8:16,17; Revelation 21:7). Yet just because we possess wealth, that doesn’t mean GOD stops possessing it. Our wealth and assets are always GOD’s, therefore we will eventually have to give an account to GOD for what we did with His wealth (2nd Corinthians 5:10).

We must therefore conduct our business each day with the understanding that we will have to explain to Christ why we did the things we did with what He lent to us.

I am addressing believers, of course; non-believers will also have to explain themselves to GOD…but without Christ as their Advocate, things will not end so well for them at all.

Second: Money is an Instrument of Relationship…

…not the other way around. People made in the Image of GOD (Christ being the Prototype) are infinitely more precious than all possessions, assets, resources, fortunes and wealth. GOD intends money to be the means by which we bless and enhance our relationship with Him and with others.

We use money to bless our relationship with GOD by caring for those who, for whatever reason, are struggling to fulfill their obligations.

“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. 38 I AM the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.” – GOD, Leviticus 25:35-38

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD,

and He will repay him for his deed.” – Proverbs 19:17

I’m just barely scratching the surface here; a huge portion of the prophecies of the Bible have to do with how you and I, regardless of the governments, corporations or economic castes we identify ourselves with, treat the poor, oppressed and downtrodden.

We also use our money to bless our relationship with GOD by investing our time and resources to the spreading of the Gospel, which is the only Thing standing between the human species and the Lake of Fire.

“And there is Salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – The Apostle Peter, Acts 4:12

Our gratitude for being saved is best expressed by doing what we can to assist Christ in saving others.

Third: A Distribution Hub, not a Bottomless Pit

George Müller spent a good part of his youth ridiculing Christians…till he became one himself.

Once saved, over his lifetime he built eight orphanages in England and Scotland. Where did all that money come from?

Prayer.

Müller never solicited funds from anyone nor asked the government for a single penny; yet in his career it’s estimated that, in today’s currency, well over seven million dollars passed through his hands.

We see through the lives of men like Abraham, Joseph, Solomon and Daniel that GOD has no problem bestowing wealth on you, as long as that wealth doesn’t become more important than GOD and people; as long as you can obey His Voice in regards to what you do with it.

People who acquire wealth for its own sake, however, or hoard fortune as an instrument of power and the domination and manipulation of others betray the nature of their diabolical Father the Devil, who hates even those that willingly give themselves to him in worship for the promise of power and dominance.

There are even among the religious wolves in sheep’s clothing: using the illusion of godliness as a method of gaining power, wealth and control over the souls of others…beware of such “name it and claim it” shysters and turn away from them:

“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound Words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.” – The Apostle Paul, 1st Timothy 6:3-7

Fourth: CAUTION: Divine Sovereignty Present

It may well be that GOD doesn’t want you to be either wealthy or rich. The Bible speaks of people who were just as faithful as Abraham, but lived their lives in abject poverty…living in fields and caves and blessed with only the bare necessities of life.

JUNCTION TWENTY-FOUR: Wealth and Faith are mutually exclusive: having one, it does not necessarily follow that you will have the other in this life. When it comes to His Own, GOD determines the economic station of His Children. In perspective, however, there are no poor people in Heaven: you may have to wait till Eternity to receive your wealth (Matthew 6:19,20).

Time to Wrap Up

I’ve written more about money in my other books; I just wanted to cover the basics here. In a Kingdom where gold is so cheap the streets of its Capital are paved with it, wealth has an entirely different meaning than what sinners consider it to be. On your journey towards that City as a believer, it is critical that, though you have yet to arrive there, even now you start to adopt and live by its Heavenly Culture.

# Chapter 15:

## The Junctions

In this chapter you will find the truths that are foundational bedrock upon which The Gospel of Jesus Christ (and this book) are built.

Learn them.

Memorize them.

Share them.

\*JUNCTION ONE: While any sinner would DO EVERTHING POSSIBLE to avoid the Lake of Fire, no sinner has ANY DESIRE IN THEIR HEART WHATSOEVER to return to GOD (repentance).

\*JUNCTION TWO: The obedience of the sinner CANNOT BE ACCEPTED by GOD because since the sinner is spiritually dead THEIR OBEDIENCE IS DEAD AS WELL.

JUNCTION THREE: As long as your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WHATSOEVER; the Lake of Fire can do you no harm.

JUNCTION FOUR: Doubt: As long as ANY PART of your Salvation is dependent upon your performance rather than Christ’s Righteousness, you can NEVER be assured of your Eternal Salvation nor of your name’s place in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE.

JUNCTION FIVE: When the One True GOD performs a miracle, that miracle is entirely consistent with His overall Purpose and Agenda; which means that while Divine miracles transcend reason and logic, they do not contradict reason and logic…a distinction that is critical to discerning between the finger of GOD and the lying wonders of Satan.

JUNCTION SIX: Salvation is completely and totally an Act of GOD; if Salvation weren’t all of GOD, YOU WOULD NEVER MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

JUNCTION SEVEN: Faith is only as potent and valuable (or, only as REAL) as the idea, object or person in/upon which that faith is placed.

JUNCTION EIGHT: GOD lovingly provides both the Truth that saves us from the Lake of Fire as well as the Saving Faith necessary to believe on (from the heart) and live by that Saving Truth.

JUNCTION NINE: We can never be allowed to experience the Power of GOD’s Holy Spirit until we fully understand that we are absolutely bankrupt (both morally and spiritually), with nothing to offer GOD except our sin, our shame and our failure.

JUNCTION TEN: Your personal neuroses (guilt, shame, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.) notwithstanding, when you pray GOD STOPS WHAT HE’S DOING AND LISTENS! Your perception of His Presence (or lack thereof) is irrelevant; what matters is the truth and your faith in the truth…not your feelings.

JUNCTION ELEVEN: Spoken words are human acts which are recorded in Heaven meticulously.

JUNCTION TWELVE: Only GOD The Word (in the Person of The Lord Jesus Christ) has authority on Earth to forgive sins and apply His own Blood to the soul of the sinner!

JUNCTION THIRTEEN: A realistic view of ourselves in the Light of the Holy Scriptures and in the Presence of Almighty GOD is what we call HUMILITY; and without this humility Salvation is simply impossible.

JUNCTION FOURTEEN: The promise of the Gospel is that GOD The Father gives us Christ, Who is of TRANSCENDENT VALUE to Him; and in so doing we become as valuable to GOD as Christ is!

JUNCTION FIFTEEN: GOD IS GENEROUS! He is generous to angel and demon…saint and sinner. He is not only more generous than anyone else, He was generous before anyone else! Look at the size of your planet, your solar system, your galaxy, your local group of galaxies—your universe! Look at the size of your family, your clan, your tribe, your nation! For the Love of GOD…YOU EXIST!!! Forever dismiss from your mind the idea that GOD is stingy…YOU are stingy; GOD is immeasurably magnanimous!

JUNCTION SIXTEEN: It is ILLEGAL for GOD The Father to punish both you and Jesus for the same sin(s)!

JUNCTION SEVENTEEN: The Holy Bible does NOT tell us all there is to know about GOD! The Bible was inspired by GOD for a very specific purpose: to give the saint everything needful to be saved from the Lake of Fire—and therefore from the power of sin.

JUNCTION EIGHTEEN: The life you were born into as a human is ABSOLUTELY INCOMPATIBLE with the Life you were born-again into as a Child of GOD.

JUNCTION NINETEEN: The Power of the Gospel is The Cross of Jesus Christ. The “magic” of The Cross is that GOD loved us so unconditionally and so deeply that He spared neither Himself nor us the pain and agony necessary to provide us a complete delivery from the power, penalty and—most important—the love of and need for sin.

JUNCTION TWENTY: GOD is under no obligation to be merciful to evil. Sinners are evil, and every human is a sinner. By the definitions of the terms “mercy” and “forgiveness,” these virtues can never be owed to the sinner. GOD would’ve been perfectly righteous and just to annihilate Adam and Eve before their offspring could permeate the surface of the Earth with the wretchedness and horror you see today. Even more so: GOD would’ve been just to shut Lucifer down before anyone else was affected.

JUNCTION TWENTY-ONE: Every sentient being is a “free-will” agent and can make decisions (acts of the will) to determine their destiny, but ONLY GOD DETERMINES THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. The Jew who assisted in the weaponization of Zyklon gas for use in World War I had no idea his government would use the same gas to exterminate millions of European Jews in World War II. In the same way, neither you nor I can imagine the far-reaching consequences of the decisions we make today.

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# About the Author

Calvin Lamont Mitchell is an Author, Musician, Composer and IT Consultant with 25 years of experience in Information Technology, 26 years of experience in Music and 35 years of experience with Jesus Christ.

Investing 35 years in the research, study, teaching and preaching of the Holy Scriptures, Calvin and his wife Sondra exposit Divine Truth to audiences crossing both denominational and nondenominational boundaries. Calvin brings fresh light to the foundational doctrines of the Christian Faith and has a testimony that exalts the Person and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Calvin has authored 7 books on Christian discipleship, theology and wisdom:

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The Book of Tweets: Proverbs for the Modern Age

The Basics and More: A Year's Sermons

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